BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO. 38 | BENGALURU | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 46 | PRICE ₹5**

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

**Russia blocks WhatsApp, citing failure to comply with local law, days after curbing Telegram. Urges Russians to switch to domestic alternative without encryption,** **P 21**

## No harassment of borrowers: RBI on loan recovery

Under RBI's draft amendments, which take effect on July 1, banks are required to first resolve borrower complaints before starting recovery, and lenders must disclose the identity of the recovery agent before contact. The agents will deal only with the borrower and not any other contact. **P 19**

## Retail inflation 2.8% under new data set

Retail inflation was at 2.8% in Jan, calculated under the new data series with new additions and weightage of food reduced. Rural inflation was marginally lower at 2.7% compared to urban which was at 2.8%. **P 19**

## Centre offers council for Ladakh

The Centre has made it clear that Ladakh will not be granted Sixth Schedule status or statehood, turkey demands of Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance, and offered a territorial council. **P 13**

## Sarla Maheshwari, of 1980s' DD, dead

Sarla Maheshwari, whose clear diction and dignified demeanour made her one of the popular Doordarshan newsreaders and a familiar face for millions of Indians in the 1980s, passed away Thursday. She was 74. **P 14**

# Rera only facilitating builders in default: SC

## Better Abolish It, We Don't Mind: CJI-Led Bench

**New Delhi:** Supreme Court on Thursday said it is high time all states rethought the constitution of the real estate regulatory authority (Rera) as the institution looking at nothing except "facilitating" defaulting builders.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said the people for whom Rera was created were "completely disappointed". "Better abolish this institution, we don't mind that," the CJI said. The observations came as the bench permitted the Himachal govt to shift the Rera office to a place of its choice.

> **The people for whom this institution (Rera) was created, they are completely depressed, disgusted and disappointed. None of them are getting any effective relief.** Who this institution actually is now serving, you will find out when you meet these people
> —CJI Surya Kant

"...High time that all the states should revisit and rethink of even constituting this authority," the bench said.

When the bench was informed that a retired IAS officer was appointed in Rera, the CJI said, "In every state, it has become a rehabilitation centre. These authorities are all occupied by these persons."

The advocate general of Himachal told the bench that, as per a policy decision, the state is developing Palampur, Dharamshala and other cities.

The CJI asked, "What is the logic of having a retired bureaucrat? How he will be able to help in developing Palampur? You need to avail of services of some architect who is environment-friendly, knows Palampur, Dharamshala and these areas. Only those persons will help", on

▶ **No relief for buyers, P 14**

## New fact sheet reflects basis of US FTA: Govt

**New Delhi:** The govt on Thursday said amendments in the White House fact sheet on the framework for an interim India-US trade deal reflected the shared understandings contained in the earlier joint statement that formed the basis of the agreement reached by both sides.

The fact sheet issued days after the joint statement had stirred up a controversy as the text seemed to deviate from the joint statement issued on Feb 7. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "Both sides will now work towards implementing this framework and finalising the Interim Agreement."

▶ **India to get B'desh-like textile tariff cut: Min, P 14**

▶ **Joint statement, P 14**

# 'Mother of def deals': Govt clears plan to procure 114 Rafales

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**New Delhi:** Defence minister Rajnath Singh-led Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Thursday approved the acquisition of 114 Rafale fighter jets from France, five days ahead of the arrival of French President Emmanuel Macron in Delhi, paving the way for the 'mother of all defence deals' in the country.

Although the defence ministry hasn't made the cost of the 114 Rafale jets public, the proposed govt-to-govt deal is expected to be worth around Rs 3.25 lakh crore, which, when signed with France's Dassault Aviation after final cost negotiations and Cabinet approval, will make it India's costliest defence acquisition since Independence. About 26 of the multi-role fighters will be bought in fly-away condition and are likely to be inducted in IAF by 2030.

**BIGGEST BUY EVER**

- Deal marks IAF's **vote of confidence in Rafale**. 26 odd jets will be bought in fly-away condition, **rest to be made in India** by Dassault-HAL
- DAC nod also for **P-8I Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft** from Boeing, combat missiles, high-altitude satellite
- Total cost of acquisitions, including Rafales, cleared on Thursday around **₹3.6 lakh cr**

▶ **Vote of confidence, P 10**

## Nipah-infected nurse dies of other causes

**Kolkata:** A 25-year-old female nurse infected by Nipah last month died of secondary complications on Thursday at a private hospital near Kolkata after a 37-day battle with the virus and its complications, **reports Sunsarl Yengkhom.**

A male nurse also found infected around the same time was discharged around two weeks ago and has reported satisfactory recovery.

Health department sources said the female nurse had been Nipah-negative in recent days in two consecutive tests, the last on Feb 8. She had also been off ventilation in the past 10 days.

The two were the only Nipah-positive cases found in Bengal in early Jan.

▶ **200 contacts, P 14**

# SC to courts: Show courage, drop cases before trial if proof not strong

**New Delhi:** Criminal proceedings bring strain and social stigma, the SC said on Thursday, urging courts, particularly trial courts, to show "clarity and courage" to discharge an accused at the framing of charges itself when the material on record fails to make out a prima facie case, **reports Amit Anand Choudhary.**

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N K Singh said that judicial process itself should not become a punishment, and the courts must remain alive to the human consequences of their decisions and to the trust society places in them. The court passed the order while discharging a person under SC/ST Act after it found that ingredients of the offence under the special law was not met but it allowed trial court to proceed for offences under IPC.

**IN THE COURTS**

- SC says 'Ghoonghtor Pandat' makers, says **right to speech & expression doesn't give anyone licence to denigrate a community** | Page opp
- 'Posed serious threat to life': A rly court **awards a Haridwar 'sadhu' 2-year jail sentence for deliberately placing stones along tracks** in Hyd | P 14
- **BSF jawan gets 3-year RI for sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl** who was on her way to school, threatening to kill her in Mathura | P 16
- A Pocso court sentences four men to **life imprisonment for gangraping and killing 16-year-old girl** | P 18

▶ **Judicial responsibility, P 13**

## Snakebite, not 'dowry death': 3 of family freed

After spending three years in jail, a 33-year-old man and his parents charged with killing his 26-year-old wife over dowry were acquitted after a Bulandshahr court ruled her death was caused by snakebite. Medical, forensic, and tehsildar's reports attributed death due to snake venom. The judge rebuked the investigating officer for shoddy probe, and awarded compensation to the family Page opp

# BJP's Dubey calls for stripping Rahul of LS membership, writes to Speaker

**New Delhi:** BJP MP Nishikant Dubey called Thursday for stripping Rahul Gandhi of his Lok Sabha membership and urged Speaker Om Birla to form a parliamentary inquiry committee to act against him for his alleged attempts to "destabilise the country", marking a major escalation of aggression from the governing alliance against the leader of the opposition.

Dubey has sought a "substantive motion" against Gandhi, linking his frequent visits to his alleged connections with "foreign forces working against India" and his reference to Gen Naravane's unpublished memoir.

**LOP: Spoke truth in House, won't back down**

Saying that he spoke the truth in Parliament, Rahul Gandhi asserted he will not back down even if BJP moves a privilege motion or files a police case against him. BJP had taken away Rahul's LS membership in 2023, but he bounced back with more votes, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said, **slamming the govt for expunging parts of Gandhi's speech.** Gandhi said Congress and the country had fought for food security, but PM Modi betrayed farmers. P 14

▶ **EDIT PG: Not speaking to each other is the issue**

▶ **'Must be expelled', P 14**

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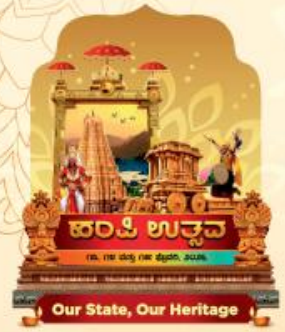


Our State, Our Heritage

Shri B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan,
Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Waqf and Minority Welfare and Minister-in-charge of Vijayanagar and Bellary districts, inspecting the preparations for the main stage of Hampi Utsav 2026.

Hon'ble MPs of district, Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council and all people representatives will take part on this occasion

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Shri H.K. Patil
Hon'ble Minister of Law, Justice, Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation and Tourism and Minister-in-charge of Gadag District

Shri Ramalinga Reddy
Hon'ble Minister for Transport & Muzarai and Minister-in-charge of Ramanagara District

Shri Thangadagi Shivaraj Sangappa
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**Corridor Nears Launch But Broken Roads And Blocked Footpaths Remain A Worry; Commuters Say Relief May Fall Short Without Repairs & Last-mile Connectivity**

# Infra hurdle: 7.5km of Pink Line ready, BANNERGHATTA ROAD STILL IN A RUT

Suchith.Kidiyoor@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** As Namma Metro's much-awaited Pink Line inches closer to launch, a ground visit along Bannerghatta Road presents a starkly different picture — one marked by potholes, barricades and broken access.

A reality check by **TOI** along the stretch from NICE Road-Kanakapura Road junction to Dairy Circle found commuters negotiating what feels like an obstacle course. Several sections remain scarred by dug-up patches and crater-like potholes. Motorists swerve across uneven surfaces, while pedestrians are pushed onto the main carriageway as footpaths lie obstructed by stacked concrete pipes, construction debris and mounds of garbage.

Residents say that unless these basic civic issues are urgently addressed, the Metro's promise of seamless mobility may ring hollow. Many also point to the absence of a clear first- and last-mile connectivity plan. Without safe pedestrian crossings, reliable feeder services and well-laid access roads linking neighbourhoods on either side of Bannerghatta Road to the upcoming stations, they fear the Pink Line may fall short of significantly easing their daily commute.

BMRCL plans to open the 21-km Pink Line, connecting Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara, in 2 phases. In the first phase, the elevated stretch from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere (Swagath Cross Road) is likely to be thrown open to the public in May this year. The 7.5-km elevated corridor will have 7 stations — Kalena Agrahara, Hulimavu, IIM-B, JP Nagar 4th Phase, Jayadeva and Tavarekere. BMRCL has already begun trial runs using the prototype train supplied by BEML. In the initial phase, the line is expected to operate with 4 to 5 trains. The entire Pink Line is likely to become operational by the end of the year, officials said.

Here is what the **TOI** team observed during a ride along the carriageway beneath the Metro corridor:

## Kalena Agrahara Metro Station

This station is expected to cater to residents living beyond NICE Road, areas in Gottigere, Doddakammanahalli and Himagiri roads, and neighbourhoods between Kanakapura Road and Bannerghatta Road such as Kothnur and Anjanapura.

However, access to the station remains a pressing concern. A nearly 4-km stretch—from Basavanapura bus stop beyond NICE Road junction to Kalena Agrahara—lacks proper footpaths, forcing pedestrians to walk perilously close to fast-moving vehicles. Road conditions are equally dismal, with multiple potholes visible within 100 metres of the first Pink Line pillar from Gottigere side. Near Himagiri bus stop, heaps of garbage line the roadside, and commuters wait at a makeshift stop beside an open drain.

Vaibhav P from Gottigere said the work has dragged on for more than eight years, even as rapid urbanisation transformed the area. "Apartments priced at Rs 4-6 crore are being sold on the promise of Metro connectivity, but the approach roads and footpaths are unusable. Basic amenities must be in place before the line is launched."

## Hulimavu Station

Located near educational institutions, a mall and several commercial establishments, Hulimavu station is expected to cater to residents of Hulimavu and Arekere on the right side of Bannerghatta Road, as well as neighbourhoods such as Kothnur and JP Nagar 8th Phase.

Although the carriageway here is four lanes wide, pedestrian infrastructure tells a different story. Uneven footpaths and debris dumped along the roadside have forced many to walk on the main road, often amid speeding traffic.

Siddarath Raj, a pedestrian, criticised what he described as poor-quality road repairs. "Authorities carried out shoddy repairs; potholes were filled without proper planning. Opposite Christ University campus, pipes were dumped on the road and lay there for months. The footpaths are in bad shape. If the roads are maintained well, it would at least help people park their bikes and use the Metro to travel towards the Jayadeva side," he said.

## JP Nagar 4th Phase Station

Located over 2 km from IIM-B, this station comes up along one of the most congested stretches of Bannerghatta Road — the junction near Vega City Mall where the Outer Ring Road intersects. The bottleneck routinely witnesses heavy traffic.

The JP Nagar 4th Phase station is expected to benefit commuters from JP Nagar. In future, it is also set to become an interchange, linking with the proposed Orange Line from JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura. However, the lack of proper footpaths on either side of the road is a drawback. BMRCL has started beautification of the median on the stretch.

## IIM-B Station

Located near Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, this station is expected to cater to residents of Bilekahalli, neighbourhoods on either side of Brigade Millennium and Sir M Visvesvaraya Road, among others.

However, the stretch between IIM-B and the Vega City Mall junction—particularly on the left side of the road—remains one of the worst-maintained sections along the corridor. Commuters contend daily with dust from the neglected carriageway, while concrete pipes dumped along the footpath have rendered it unusable. The road was dug up years ago by civic agencies to lay utilities, but restoration work has dragged on.

Ravikiran Reddy, a resident, said: "The road has been in bad condition for years, but no one seems to care about restoring it. Footpaths are encroached upon by debris and concrete pipes, and pedestrians are ignored. These issues should be fixed now."

## Jayadeva Station

The city will get its third interchange station at Jayadeva. The station — the tallest Metro structure in Bengaluru — was partially opened last year with the inauguration of the Yellow Line connecting RV Road to Electronics City.

Unlike several other stations along the corridor, Jayadeva enjoys relatively better bus connectivity, with stops located close by. This is expected to benefit commuters travelling from Bilekahalli, the Outer Ring Road and JP Nagar areas.

However, authorities will need to plan robust last-mile connectivity to ensure seamless access to the station. Once fully operational, the interchange is also likely to serve thousands of patients and attendants visiting Jayadeva Hospital.

## Taverekere Station

The terminal station of the elevated stretch of Pink Line will benefit residents of Jayanagar, Tilak Nagar, Taverekere and surrounding areas. However, access to Taverekere station remains in poor condition, with debris dumped along the Metro median creating an eyesore.

Garbage piled up on vacant sites and burnt plastic waste have led to suffocating conditions, particularly near Jal Bhavan Road. Apart from these garbage blackspots, poorly maintained bus stands are adding to commuter inconvenience.

Pothole-ridden roads make the stretch between Jayadeva Hospital and Dairy Circle difficult to navigate. Even in sections where underground Metro work is under way, road conditions remain dismal — barring stretches where BMRCL has laid concrete roads.

At busy junctions such as Dairy Circle and Lakkasandra, pedestrians face challenges while trying to cross the road.

# BDA forms panel to probe Thanisandra demolition

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**Bengaluru:** Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has formed a two-member committee of retired district judges to inquire into the removal of alleged encroachments at Thanisandra village in Arkavathi Layout.

In a Jan 29 public notice, BDA said it appointed the committee to examine whether due procedure was followed during the Jan 8 demolition drive in which around 22 'illegal structures' on two acres were cleared.

Residents said they had bought the sites through agents, triggering fresh concerns over alleged illegal property transactions, similar to irregularities earlier flagged in the Kogilu Layout case.

BDA officials earlier told **TOI** that nine godowns, a car garage and a furniture shed were among the structures demolished on the land, notified as a BDA property. Locals claimed over 60 structures were razed. The north Bengaluru area falls under Byatarayanapura assembly constituency represented by revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

BDA chairman NA Haris said: "Many occupants had only lease or rent agreements on BDA land that was grabbed by individuals who built sheds and rented them to poor families — they did not settle there on their own. While we sympathise with the poor and will work with the slum board to rehabilitate them, the core issue is that land grabbers are misusing them to safeguard the encroached land. An inquiry will verify khata and other documents, and findings will be shared. About 20-30 families were present; we provided food, shelter and toilets, and they later moved out.

Those who took an advance or rent must refund it. Our approach is to curb unauthorised developments while ensuring affected poor families are supported and given time to vacate before demolitions."

The inquiry will begin after Feb 20, said a member of the committee.

## At 14°C, Bengaluru sees dip in night temp

The city recorded a sharp dip in night temperature Wednesday, marking one of the coldest Feb nights in recent years.

According to sources in India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru's minimum temperature typically does not fall below 15°C in Feb. However, the city registered a minimum temperature of 14.4°C Wednesday night.

The chill was more palpable in other parts of the city, with HAL Airport recording 12.9°C and Kempegowda International Airport logging 12.8°C.

IMD scientists said minimum temperatures have been 2-3°C below normal for Feb, making the dip unusual for this time of year. TNN

# Chargesheet filed against 9 in ₹7.1-cr ATM van heist

**Bengaluru:** Siddapura police have filed a 1,328-page chargesheet before the 56th ACMM Court against nine people, including suspended police constable Annappa Naik, in connection with the Rs 7.1 crore ATM cash van heist on Nov 19 last year.

The robbery occurred on Dairy Circle flyover when a CMS Infosystem Ltd vehicle transporting HDFC Bank cash was intercepted by a gang posing as RBI officials. They restrained the staff and decamped with the money.

The chargesheet lists 129 pieces of evidence, including eyewitness accounts, technical data and forensic material such as fingerprints of the accused. The probe was led by ACP Narayana Swamy V of the Jayanagar subdivision, with support from Siddapura, Jayanagar, and South Cyber Crime police. Police identified J Xavier and Ravi as the main accused, while Annappa is listed as a co-accused along with Gopal, Rakesh, Naveen, Nelson, Dinesh and Jitesh. Gopal, a CMS employee, tipped off Xavier, a former employee, about the cash movement and alleged violations of RBI norms on transporting large sums. Believing the money to be hawala funds, Annappa joined the team.

Annappa arranged rental vehicles for the gang, who were unaware that the vehicles were GPS-enabled. Using tracking data, police traced the culprits, recovering Rs 5.6 crore from Hoskote and the remaining cash from other states. TNN

# Disruption in power supply tomorrow

There will be no power supply in the following areas Saturday due to maintenance work:

**Jalahalli (10am to 5pm)**
DB Sandra 2nd and 4th Blocks, JB Kaval Tree Park, Gangamma Circle, Kammagondanahalli, BEL North and South Colony, Bahubali Nagar, Bloomfield Garden, Ramachandrapura, HMT Industrial Estate, Prestige Wellington, Prestige Kensington, Chamundeshwari Layout, Nanjappa Layout

**Domlur (10am to 3pm)**
Domlur II Stage, Kodihalli, Yogananda Layout, Paramahamsa Road, Dhoopanahalli, HAL II Stage (up to 6th Main), ESI Hospital, 100 Feet Road, Salarpuria GR Tech Park, JRR Layout, Diamond District

**Mysuru Road (10am to 5pm)**
Shamanna Garden, Manjunatha Nagar, Pipeline Road, Santhosh Tent Area, New Guddadahalli, Kuvempu Nagar

**Nrupathunga Road (10am to 5pm)**
Cubbonpet 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th Cross, 13th, 14th and 15th Cross, RBI, UVCE, Agricultural Office, Govt Arts College, St Martha's Hospital, Nagarthapet Main Road, KAS Lane, KG Road, OTC Road, Sharada Theatre, SP Road, SJP Road, Dharmaraya Swamy Temple Road

# BEYOND CLASSROOM
# Schools help ease exam stress

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**Bengaluru:** Once again, the exam season is upon us. Starting Thursday, with the ISC Psychology paper, almost two months of exams await students of classes 10 and 12 under various boards. As city schools prepared their students for exams, most focused on helping them handle last-minute stress and anxiety.

Schools developed various strategies to help kids sail through this time of year. For instance, Delhi Public School East introduced a structured mentor-teacher programme, with each mentor mapped to just two students. "The initiative focused on students struggling to cope with academic pressure, emotional fatigue, or disengagement so they prepared for the board exams," said Manila Carvalho, principal, DPS East.

A key feature of the programme was its continuity during study holidays — a period when students typically do not come to school and are often left without regular academic or emotional support. Through scheduled check-in and one-on-one mentoring during this time, teachers tracked progress, addressed learning gaps and provided reassurance when anxiety peaked among the students.

Meanwhile, New Baldwin International School, Mandur, offered sound healing therapy for students to calm down.

"This is a technique where students lay down in a closed room and calming sounds were played for them. The students reported back to us that the technique was extremely effective in de-stressing them and helped them with concentration and memory retention," said Farah Shereen, principal (ICSE).

The school also has different techniques for its middle-school children when the annual exams come up. In Jan and Feb, the school offers various programmes such as friends' day out (fun trips to amusement parks) and a bonfire on campus under the starry sky, to ease the pressure of the times.

Govt High School, Ramagondanahalli, employed peer learning and ensured students had two physical education (PE) classes weekly.

Students who were stressed were given one-on-one counselling by teachers, who broke down the problem areas and provided specific study strategies. Students were given two breaks apart from lunch. There were weekly focused socio-emotional learning sessions, the school said.

"The mantra is simple — stay confident with your own preparation and the work teachers invested to get you there. Then, it's about sleeping well (not burning midnight oil to cram information), eating sensibly so the brain stays nourished and not temporarily satiated on junk food, and finally giving the brain and body leisure time regularly between revisions, by playing instruments, taking some dunks with basketball and not using gadget," said Deens Academy principal Shanthi Menon.

Aisha Zakki, principal, Ryan International Academy, Horamavu, said a structured, day-wise revision plan was carefully designed and shared with parents to ensure systematic preparation for the exams.

Presidency School South director Bhuvaneswari J said that the counsellor's contact number was shared with students to reach out for help at any point of time.

## DOCTOR'S TIPS FOR THE SEASON

### For Parents
- Be supportive and reassuring
- Spend quality time with children during exams
- If possible, one of the parents can take leave to be available during exam days
- Ensure proper sleep, nutrition, and break time
- Listen patiently to children's concerns without dismissing them
- Avoid planning travel or hosting guests during exams
- Monitor and restrict excessive gadget use in children

### For Teachers
- Be available to clear doubts before and between exams
- Share encouraging and positive messages
- Motivate students to revise well and stay confident
- If a child has intense anxiety, availability of counsellors at school is important
- Use crisis helplines (Tele Manas: toll-free number 14416 or 1800-89-14416)

Source: Dr John Vijay Sagar, professor & HOD, child and adolescent psychiatry, Nimhans

### For Students
**Plan and revise strategically** — Use this time for revision, not learning new topics

**Give equal importance to all subjects** — Don't treat any subject as less or more important

**Avoid last-minute cramming and nights out** — Get at least 6-7 hours of sleep daily to stay alert and improve memory

**Eat balanced, home-cooked food** — Avoid outside, stored or unhygienic food

**Limit caffeine intake at night** — Avoid coffee or caffeinated drinks at night that keep you from sleeping

**Avoid comparing yourself with others** — Focus on your own preparation instead of marks, ranks, or classmates' scores

**Don't overthink results** — Concentrate on preparation and performance, not outcomes

**Use positive self-talk** — Tell yourself: "I can do well. I am prepared."

**Stay hydrated** — Drink clean, safe water

**Share worries** — Talk to parents or teachers if feeling anxious or stressed

**Take short, healthy breaks** — Go for a walk, cycle or do light physical activity

**Regulate gadget use** — Reduce screen time and avoid wasting revision time

### WATCH WHAT YOU EAT
- Don't stress-eat junk food. Junk food triggers highs and lows — high energy for a short time and then fatigue
- Hydration is important for the brain to remain alert
- Include seeds, nuts and fibrous fruits in diet
- Have probiotics such as curd, fermented food, and sprouts for good gut health
- Do not overeat in one meal. Take small helpings
- Omega 3s and protein content
- No eating heavy meals, especially late at night

— Source: Anjana Nair, nutrition consultant, CEO, Well-A-Line Solutions

### EXAM SCHEDULE
**ISC:** Feb 12 to April 6
**ICSE:** Feb 17 to March 30
**SSLC:** March 18 to April 2
**II PU:** Feb 28 to March 17
**CBSE, class 10:** Feb 17 to March 11
**CBSE, class 12:** Feb 17 to April 10

# 3 cops booked for attacking canteen staff over money

Times News Network

**NIGHT RAGE** CCTV clips of one of the three accused, Gangaraju (inset), hitting the staff and forcing the eatery to shut down have gone viral

**Bengaluru:** A case has been registered against three policemen for allegedly abusing and assaulting staff at an eatery near Alpha Building on Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) premises around midnight two days ago. CCTV footage of the attack on the staff, and the eatery eventually being forced to shut down for the night, has gone viral.

The police constables, attached to KIA police, are Gangaraju, Balappa and Kumar. According to a complaint filed by canteen manager Ajith JS, the incident occurred between 12.30am and 1am on Feb 10 and involved staff member Saifalla Dewan, 22. The trio of constables, who were on patrol duty, went to the Alpha Building canteen around 12.30am and asked for two cups of coffee.

Dewan told the constables in Hindi to purchase tokens from the cash counter by paying cash. Gangaraju allegedly took offence, abused the staff in filthy language, and dared them to ask money from policemen.

Gangaraju allegedly punched Dewan in the face and shoulder around 12.55am and threatened him. When others questioned the assault, Gangaraju allegedly threatened them with dire consequences. Ajith stated in his complaint that the canteen serves airport staff working round the clock at subsidised prices.

When asked to purchase tokens, Gangaraju allegedly told staff it was their mistake to keep the canteen open after midnight and forcibly stopped them from working. He allegedly issued death threats to two other staff members — Rajesh and Dilwar — who intervened during the assault. The constables allegedly caused losses by forcibly shutting the canteen. Dewan was later taken to the govt hospital in Devanahalli for treatment.

The incident was brought to the notice of police commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh Wednesday, who instructed jurisdictional police to register a case and investigate.

A senior officer said a case was registered and a report would be submitted to the DCP's office Friday for further action. Kumar does not drink tea or coffee, but he accompanied Gangaraju and Balappa and got into trouble, the officer added.

Gangaraju has faced allegations in the past when he was attached to Ashok Nagar traffic police station and other stations, and was even suspended earlier.

# 1.7kg charas in candy packets seized at KIA

CAUGHT BY CUSTOMS

**Bengaluru:** Customs officials intercepted a passenger arriving from Bangkok and seized 1.7kg of hashish, also known as charas, cleverly concealed inside candy and sweet packets.

During inspection of his baggage at Kempegowda International Airport Wednesday, officials found the packed boxes and opened them to find charas hidden within the packets. The seized contraband is estimated to be worth Rs 4.2 lakh. The passenger was arrested under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. TNN

# 52-yr-old held for driving MUV with man on bonnet

Times News Network

Suresh, 52, has been arrested for attempted murder after allegedly driving nearly 1km with a man clinging to his MUV's bonnet near Trinity Junction

**Bengaluru:** A 52-year-old property manager has landed in police custody for driving his MUV with a man on the bonnet, in a case of road rage. Video clips of the incident went viral Wednesday.

**ROAD-RAGE CASE**

The accused is Suresh Kumar, a resident of Pulikeshinagar, east Bengaluru. Arrested under BNS Section 109 (attempt to murder), Suresh was produced in court Thursday and sent to 14-day judicial custody.

Trouble began around 12.30pm Wednesday when Suresh abused goods vehicle driver Nanjunda for not giving way near Trinity Junction. After using filthy words, Suresh drove away. However, both vehicles stopped at the next signal, waiting for the green light. A flower vendor, Nanjunda was driving back to his Tyagarajanagar home after purchasing flowers at Hoskote. "I felt humiliated after the abuse. So, demanding an explanation, I went near Suresh's car window. Instead of replying to me, he tried to drive away. I stood in front of his car in a bid to stop him. To my shock, he drove and I fell on the bonnet. As the car gained pace, I clutched on to the wipers, requesting Suresh to stop. Even other commuters shouted at him, saying I would die if I fell. After he drove on for nearly 1km, other commuters blocked the car, forcing Suresh to stop. I alighted and took him to task," Nanjunda told police.

## OFFSIDE

# Create municipal trust property mgmnt system: HC to govt

Times News Network

**Bengaluru:** The high court has directed the govt to consider establishing a municipal trust property management system (MTPMS) as the single source of truth for all public properties falling under Karnataka Municipalities Act, by integrating services like Bhoomi, Mojini, e-municipalities and Sakala.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj directed that authorities should consider assigning a trust property identification number (TPIN) to each such property. The judge said all municipal councils should recognise that the properties such as lakebed, open fields and streets "vest in the municipal council only in a fiduciary capacity as trustee and not as absolute owner".

The court designated the principal secretary, department of rural development and panchayat raj, as the administrative nodal authority, responsible for policy oversight, inter-departmental coordination, enforcement, and fixation of accountability.

The principal secretary, department of e-governance was designated as technology nodal authority.

The judge barred sale, lease, or alienation of such properties without prior permission from the govt. The directions were issued while the court dealt with a petition filed by Syed Matin Abbas, a resident of Periyapatna town in Mysuru district.

# GBA plans to allow boating in 10 lakes

**Bengaluru:** The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) plans to permit boating in 10 lakes in the city. The boats are likely to be pedal ones as officials have decided not to permit motorised ones which are harmful to the ecosystem.

The lakes identified are Ulsoor, Kaggadasapura, Nayandahalli, Sankey, Yelahanka, Rachenahalli, Vengaiah, Rampura, Begur, and Madiwala. A senior GBA official said the facility would be introduced by the tourism department, which will collaborate with Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority. "One of the main objectives is to generate revenue for maintenance and infrastructure expenses of lakes," the official said. Depending on the response, boating could be extended to 100 lakes. TNN

# Missing girl, 13, traced in hours

**Bengaluru:** A 13-year-old missing girl was traced in 2-3 hours and reunited with her parents. The RT Nagar resident, studying in class 7, was dropped at school around 9am on Feb 10 by her grandfather. In his complaint, the girl's father said she did not return home after school.

Police initiated an investigation, checked CCTV footage from the school and surrounding areas, and circulated messages on WhatsApp groups and police stations. Cops later received information that the girl was spotted on Commercial Street. The girl did not disclose how she reached Commercial Street. TNN

# B'lore Turf Club set to shift to Kunigal within 2 years

Times News Network

File photo

**ECO MOVE** As per law minister HK Patil, the existing 83-acre turf club area will be protected as a lung space

**Bengaluru:** Bangalore Turf Club (BTC), which has been at loggerheads with the govt since 2010, will move from Race Course Road in the city to the 110-acre Kunigal Stud Farm property.

The cabinet, which took the decision Thursday, said the existing 83-acre turf club area will be protected as a lung space, according to law and parliamentary affairs minister HK Patil. BTC has been given two years to shift. Patil said the state has suffered a loss of revenue for 15 years due to non-revision of the lease amount. The pending amount will be recovered, and in addition, a penalty — 2% of the club's revenue earned during the period — will be imposed. The govt order is expected shortly.

### No decision on SIR yet

The cabinet also discussed the Election Commission of India's special intensive revision (SIR) at length but did not take any decision. The law department has been authorised to study SIR and submit its report to the govt by Feb 28. Based on this, a decision will be taken on whether to consent to the ECI's exercise.

Other cabinet decisions included a one-time settlement scheme for stone quarry owners who defaulted on paying royalty and penalties, and retaining of permanent agricultural zone status in 1,777 acres covering 13 villages near Devanahalli.

# HC increases relief, says can't blame car driver for accident

Times News Network

**Bengaluru:** The high court has modified a tribunal's award and granted enhanced compensation of around Rs 25 lakh to the family of a driver who died in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh in Aug 2022. His car hit a tractor parked in the middle of the national highway near Empedu Eswaraiah Colony, Srikalahasthi Mandal.

On Feb 6, 2024, the motor accident claims tribunal in Bengaluru awarded Rs 18.1 lakh to the family of P Ramesh, stating the deceased had contributed 40% to the accident through his negligence. His family challenged the verdict, seeking Rs 40 lakh compensation.

After perusing the materials on record, Justice P Sree Sudha noted the accident occurred on Aug 21, 2022 at 12.30am, and the tractor was parked in the middle of the road without any indicators or signals. "As per road regulations, parking of trucks on national highway is prohibited. The accident occurred at 12.30am, and it was stated that P Ramesh was not able to see the parked vehicle. As such, he dashed into it. Therefore, negligence was on the part of the tractor driver who parked in the middle of the road, and not Ramesh, who was driving the car. The contributory negligence fixed at 40% was done without proper appreciation of the facts and has been set aside," the judge observed in her order.

Justice Sree Sudha noted that although the claimants submitted that Ramesh was 36 years old and earned Rs 25,000 per month, no income proof to that effect was submitted.

Based on the notional income chart of Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, Ramesh's income was determined as Rs 15,500 per month, and a compensation amount of Rs 24,90,000 with 6% interest was awarded to his family.

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SAD DEMISE

SAD DEMISE

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Mrs Padma K Nair (88 yrs)
w/o Late Mr P Krishnan Nair
on 12 Feb 2026
Cremation: 13 Feb 2026, 2 pm, Wilson Garden Crematorium, Bengaluru
Deeply mourned by
Children Dr Githa and Nandakishore,
Hari Krishnan and Dr Bindu,
and grandchildren
Nikhita, Ashish, Irshete

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Bhatt & Yoshama Family.

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# Police: Techie accused of killing parents has psychiatric issues

## 33-Yr-Old Could Be Schizophrenia Patient: Cops

Rajiv.KaRad@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** The investigation into the murder of a couple by their 35-year-old son in an upscale villa community in the tech corridor has taken an intriguing turn: Cops have learnt that the accused was grappling with serious psychiatric issues.

Rohan Bhat, the US-returned software engineer who was arrested by HAL police, was Thursday sent to Nimhans after it was concluded that it was not prudent at this juncture to hand him over to police custody. Based on preliminary assessment, a police officer said Rohan could be suffering from schizophrenia in serious mental health condition characterised by disorganised thinking or behaviour.

On Wednesday, HAL police arrested Rohan on charges of stabbing his parents, former merchant navy captain Naveen Chandra and dentist mother Shyamala, to death inside their villa in Vignan Nagar, near HAL Township.

The incident came to light around 7.30am when neighbours, on hearing the commotion, rushed to the villa. The couple was immediately shifted to Manipal Hospital on Old Airport Road but declared dead on arrival. Later, based on a complaint filed by Dr Madhavi Nair, a neighbour, police nabbed Rohan.

"Though circumstantial evidence points to Rohan's involvement in the murder, what is evading clarity is the exact motive behind it," a police officer said.

"Rohan makes contradictory statements every now and then. Once, he claims his father refused to give him Rs 4 lakh for his new project. Then, he changes it, saying the fight broke out over changing his mobile number from the family package. Also, he was undergoing mood swings. So, we decided to question him once his younger sister arrives from the US," he added.

### DOUBLE MURDER

### ROHAN COMPLETED STUDIES IN US

Police found Rohan (centre) used a kitchen knife to kill Naveen and Shyamala, but he claimed later he did not remember anything

Police discovered Naveen and Shyamala hailed from Mangaluru. A merchant navy captain, Naveen served in many parts of the country: Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. They shifted to Bengaluru around six years back. Shyamala worked at Chinmaya Hospital in Indiranagar. Also, she ran a small clinic in her villa, the sources said.

Rohan completed his undergraduate and graduate studies in America. "A software engineer, Rohan worked with different companies before returning to Bengaluru in 2023. He told his parents that he was freelancing for different tech firms. However, Rohan had differences with Naveen, but he loved his mother. Saying he wanted to work in solitude, he lived in a single-bedroom rented house in Varthur," an investigating officer said.

> Rohan is making contradictory statements every now and then. Once, he claims his father refused to give him Rs 4 lakh for his new project. Then, he changes it, saying the fight broke out over changing his mobile number from the family package
> — A police officer

**Dad hit with airgun: Rohan**

On Monday evening, the couple landed in Bengaluru from Bhubaneswar, where they had gone on a 10-day excursion. "Since his mother intimated him, Rohan came home to receive them. According to Rohan, he requested Naveen to fund his projects and Naveen refused. However, the fight broke out early Wednesday morning when Naveen was getting ready for a walk and Rohan repeated his demand. At one stage, Naveen shouted at Rohan, asking him to leave the house immediately. According to Rohan, his father hit him with the stock of an airgun," an investigating officer said.

Police found Rohan used a kitchen knife to kill them. However, Rohan claimed he did not remember anything.

**Multiple stab wounds**

The couple's neighbour Dr Madhavi Nair stated in her complaint that she received a call around 7.40am Wednesday to attend to an emergency in villa 112. "I rushed out and found Naveen in the garden of the opposite house. He had multiple stab wounds. I saw Shyamala lying on the floor inside the house. She was not responding. I was told by my neighbour that their son, Rohan, was inside. I asked him to come out. He said he was hit on the stomach. Then, I went inside and checked on Shyamala. I could not feel a pulse," she said.

She also stated, "Shyamala had told me that Rohan had some psychiatric issues and was on medication."

# B'luru stops to smell the roses this Valentine's Week

## Auction Firm Expects 1 Crore Stems Will Be Sold This Year

Sanjay.Murty@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** Traders in the city are seeing a significant rise in rose trade this year, ahead of Valentine's Day Saturday. The International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB) is expecting the number of rose stems auctioned during the season to cross one crore.

IFAB's assistant general manager, Veena AM, said the count surpassed last year's number even before Feb 14. "Last year, a total of 88.1 lakh rose stems were auctioned between Feb 1 and 14. This year, the number is already 88.3 lakh on Feb 12," she said, adding that around 10-13 lakh stems are expected to be auctioned by the end of Saturday.

Over 70% of the total roses sold in and from Bengaluru go through IFAB, while the rest is processed directly from growers. This includes roses sold at prominent markets like KR Market.

**Early demand**

IFAB MD and joint director of horticulture, M Viswanath, said: "Usually, demand for roses begins to soar around Feb 7. This year, the demand began earlier, from Feb 1, in the run-up to Rose Day on Feb 7."

**LOVE IS IN THE AIR:** According to the International Flower Auction Bangalore, the demand for roses started early this year, and they've already auctioned 88.3L stems as on Feb 12

The price of the rose also went up by 10-15%. Last year, a stem cost Rs 14-16 on average. This year, the price is Rs 16-18 on average, going up to Rs 20 in some cases.

**Rainwater enhancing quality**

The region surrounding Bengaluru has roses growing on over 1,500 hectares. Viswanath said rainwater harvesting was mandated for farmers to avail a subsidy to set up polyhouses. This resulted in saving and using lakhs of litres of rainwater every year in each polyhouse. "Rainwater is ideal for growing roses as its electrical conductivity is nearly zero. This helps in better nutrient availability to the plants," he said. The climate and soil conditions in the region around Bengaluru are also ideal to grow Dutch roses. "Bengaluru roses also have bigger buds, with the stems growing up to 70cm long. They have a longer shelf life of up to six days," he added.

# Students travel in trucks, headmaster suspended

Times News Network

The headmaster (in-charge) of a govt higher primary school in Balenga village of Belthangady taluk in Dakshina Kannada district was placed under suspension Thursday for allegedly making nearly 70 students travel in two goods vehicles during a recent field study visit.

Tarakesari, block education officer (BEO), Belthangady, said Kiran Kumar KS of the Govt Upgraded Higher Primary School, Balenga, was suspended. The incident, which occurred on Feb 8, triggered sharp criticism for violating student-safety norms and transport guidelines. According to the BEO, the trip was organised as part of Eco Club activities to a beekeeping farm near the school.

The headmaster allegedly used a tipper truck and a pickup vehicle to ferry the children to the site and back. Videos showing students being transported in unsafe conditions circulated widely on social media, prompting action by the education department.

The BEO's office also received an oral complaint from parents and they've sought an explanation from the headmaster. DDPI GS Shashidhar said the suspension order was issued based on video evidence and information available to the department. He stated schools must use passenger vehicles with valid documentation and ensure required safety compliance while transporting children.

The school caters to students from classes I to VIII.

Meanwhile, based on a complaint filed by one Dharanendra of Balanja village, a case has been registered at Venoor police station under Section 281 of BNS and Sections 66 and 183(A) of the MV Act. Appropriate legal action will be initiated.

FIELD TRIP: Nearly 70 students travelled in two goods vehicles during their study trip to beekeeping farm in Dakshina Kannada district

# Lokayukta raids 4 govt officials in disproportionate asset cases

Times News Network

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka Lokayukta Thursday launched simultaneous raids at 28 places, including residences, offices and houses of relatives linked to four govt officials across Bengaluru, Davanagere and Dharwad.

In Bengaluru, searches were carried out on premises associated with HM Janardhan, superintendent engineer with Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS), and Purushotham Das Hegde, chief engineer and project director of Karnataka State Highway Development Project (KSHDP). In Davanagere, the raids were conducted on properties linked to Arjun RH, assistant executive engineer (civil), Bescom, and in Dharwad, on properties of Somalingappa Fakkirappa Siddanagoudar, survey supervisor, assistant director of land records (ADLR) office. They found gold, silver, cash, sites, agricultural land, vehicles and other items worth Rs 11.2 crore belonging to Purushotham; Rs 4.4 crore to Janardhan; about Rs 2.3 crore owned by Arjun and Rs 1.8 crore owned by Somalingappa.

# Biz rivalry in real estate key reason for rowdy murder: CID

▶ Continued from page 1

CID said business rivalry in the real estate sector was the primary motive.

Based on a complaint filed by Shiva's mother, police registered a case against several suspects, including **Basavaraja**, and later invoked provisions of Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act (KCOCA).

Basavaraja challenged the invocation of KCOCA in the high court on Aug 12, and the court quashed the charge on Dec 18.

A vacation bench subsequently granted him interim anticipatory bail on Dec 26. However, Tuesday, a bench rejected the anticipatory bail order, observing: "Interrogation of a powerful accused — such as the petitioner, who is highly influential and armed with an order of anticipatory bail — may not be as effective. A decision on the manner of probe must be left with the investigating authority, and the court cannot sit in judgment over the same."

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026

BJP LEADER VANATHI SRINIVASAN ASKS RAHUL GANDHI TO REFRAIN FROM DOING POLITICS ON NAT'L SECURITY

IT'S OUR MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO FULFIL UNFINISHED DREAMS OF AJIT PAWAR, SAYS HIS COUSIN & MP SUPRIYA

## HACK OF THE DAY — HACKED INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT? HERE'S HOW TO TAKE IT BACK

**WHAT IT SOLVES:** Regaining access after a takeover, removing unauthorised profile changes, and stopping hackers from posting

**WHAT TO DO:** Use Instagram's internal security tools to verify your identity via a login link, security code, or a video selfie

**If you can still log in:**

1. Change your password and enable Two-Factor Authentication
2. Check Accounts Center and remove any linked Facebook or third-party accounts you don't recognize
3. Confirm your phone number and email id are correct in your settings

**If you are locked out:**

1. **Request a Login Link:** On login screen, tap "Forgot password?", enter username or phone number, and click "send login link"
2. **Request a Security Code:** If login link doesn't work, select "need more help?" to request a security code or human support
3. **Verify via Video Selfie:** For accounts featuring photos of you, Instagram will ask you to record a video selfie to prove you are a real person

**CAREFUL: Instagram will never ask for your password or a security code via a Direct Message. The "Video Selfie" is strictly used for identity verification, is never visible on your profile, and is deleted from Meta's servers within 30 days**

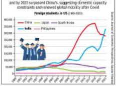
Scan for more hacks

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules. Tip from neha.saini1@timesinternet.in

## STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

### Indian students made a beeline for the US post Covid

Indian student enrolment in US universities surged post-pandemic, and by 2023 surpassed China's, suggesting domestic capacity constraints and renewed global mobility after Covid




# Assam BJP fires social media co-convenor over video row

## 'Creating Biswa Video Was Unauthorised'

Kangkan.Kalita1 @timesofindia.com

**The AI-generated video of Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma showed him firing a gun at two men depicted as illegal Muslim immigrants from Bangladesh**

**Guwahati:** Assam BJP sacked its social media cell co-convenor Ron Vikash Gaurav on Thursday, holding him responsible for the controversy triggered by an AI-generated video of CM Himanta Biswa Sarma firing a gun at two men depicted as illegal Muslim immigrants from Bangladesh.

"He (Ron Vikash) has been relieved of his assignment. The creation and posting of that particular video on the X handle, involving the CM, was unauthorised," Kishore Upadhyay, chief spokesperson for the party's state unit, said.

The video, captioned "Point-blank shot", was deleted after outrage over what the opposition alleged was a "malicious" attempt to misrepresent a particular community.

Congress lodged a police complaint against Sarma at Dispur police station last Tuesday. PCC president and MP Gaurav Gogoi accused Sarma of "inciting genocide" against Muslims.

A day earlier, AIMIM chief and MP Asaduddin Owaisi lodged a police complaint in Hyderabad, seeking criminal action against the Assam chief minister.

Upadhyay said BJP had a mechanism that required its social media managers to seek permission "for such political posts", which Ron Vikash allegedly bypassed. CM Sarma told reporters he was unaware of any such video being posted on BJP's handle.

BJP's social media in-charge in Assam is Ranjib Kumar Sharma while Biswajit Khound is the cell's convenor.

# Potholes killed 9,438 in 2020-24

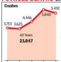
Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Potholes claimed 9,438 lives over five years, from 2020 to 2024, according to govt data. Uttar Pradesh alone reported 5,127 of these fatalities, more than half of all pothole-related deaths, while more than half a dozen states and UTs, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, and Chandigarh, reported "zero" road crashes, injuries, or deaths under this category, raising questions about how police record such data.

In a detailed response on pothole-related crashes, deaths and injuries, the road transport ministry informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday the overall number of fatalities have consistently increased from 1,555 in 2020 (Covid-19 year) to 2,385 in 2024, a rise of over 53%. As per the data, Madhya Pradesh recorded second-highest pothole-related deaths at 969 in these five years, followed by Tamil Nadu (632), Odisha (425), Punjab (414) and Assam (395).

Among the UTs, Delhi registered a maximum of 30 such fatalities. The road accident data of 2025 has not yet been published. "It's surprising that while states like Manipur and Tripura have registered accidents and deaths due to potholes, there was not a single accident due to such road conditions in bigger states like Andhra Pradesh and Bihar that have longer road network. Until we have objective reporting of road crashes and their reasons, the data won't reflect the exact cause for taking corrective measures," said an expert.

### POTHOLE DEATHS IN INDIA



AI image

| Year | Grievous injuries | Minor injuries |
|---|---|---|
| 2020 | 1,627 | 1,495 |
| 2021 | 1,389 | 1,714 |
| 2022 | 1,705 | 2,029 |
| 2023 | 2,666 | 2,643 |
| 2024 | 2,238 | 2,405 |
| All Years | 9,625 | 10,286 |

Source: Parliament Question

# 'Witchcraft': Man, woman beheaded

**Bhopal:** A 25-year-old man in MP's Singrauli district Thursday allegedly beheaded a man and a woman who, he believed, practised witchcraft and were responsible for his personal misfortunes. Two neighbours who tried to intervene were also severely injured in the attack. The accused has been taken into custody.

Police said, between 4am and 5am Thursday, accused Chhatrapati Singh invited some neighbours over to his house in Atarwa village to attend a puja. Among those who arrived were Kemia Singh, 45, and Phool Kumari Singh, 50, both residents of the same village. During the puja, Chhatrapati allegedly beheaded the two, killing them on the spot.

According to police, the accused was under mental stress after his wife suffered a miscarriage some months ago. TNN

# Woman who eloped with daughter's fiance now vanishes with bro-in-law

Mohammad.Dilshad @timesofindia.com

**Agra:** Months after Apna Devi created headlines by running away with her daughter's 20-year-old would-be husband, Rahul Kumar, the 41-year-old woman has done it again. This time, she has vanished with her brother-in-law.

But now, though, police have promised to look into the matter after Kumar reached the cops' doorstep on Wednesday with a "heartfelt" complaint, requesting for "huge favour".

In his complaint in Aligarh district's Dado thana, Kumar, now a year older, stated he used to sell clothes at the India-Nepal border, and in his absence, his wife eloped with her brother-in-law, Devendra, in his mid-30s. She also took away Rs 2 lakh and jewellery kept in the house, Kumar claimed.

"Around 8:30am on Feb 6, I left for the border. My wife was alone back at home. And when I returned, I found that she had disappeared," he said.

However, there is more to the story. A local cop said that the woman had also approached them on Thursday with her take on the matter. Apna claimed that she "left" Kumar because he was regularly harassing her.

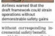
DSP (Dado area), Sanjeev Kumar Tomar, added Rahul Kumar was staying with Apna Devi somewhere near the Nepal border. Both belong to Aligarh.

The current episode rekindles memories of last April, when the same woman, then 40, had disappeared with Kumar, nine days before her daughter's wedding. It all happened on April 6, when the groom-to-be left home under the pretext of shopping for wedding attire. Later that evening, he made a phone call to his father, saying, "I'm leaving. Don't try to find me." Around the same time, the bride's mother also vanished without a trace.

*(With inputs from Arun Singh)*

# Cabin crew duty norms: Airlines flag operational strain

Times News Network



Airlines warned that the draft framework could strain operations without demonstrable safety gains

**Mumbai:** A day after IndiGo fully implemented the revised Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms for cockpit crew, airlines have sought changes to a separate set of proposed duty and rest rules for cabin crew, warning that the draft framework could strain operations without demonstrable safety gains.

The transition to the updated cockpit duty period and rest regime followed the expiry of a temporary exemption granted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in December, after widespread flight cancellations affected close to 10 lakh IndiGo passengers. It also marked the culmination of nearly two years of sustained demands by pilots' groups for improved work-rest norms, a campaign that intensified following the sudden death of an IndiGo pilot at a boarding gate in Nagpur in August 2023.

Now, the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), which represents Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet, has written to the regulator seeking recalibration of proposed changes to cabin crew flight duty and rest requirements under the draft Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR), saying several provisions could significantly disrupt operations without corresponding incremental safety benefit.

"Airlines across the industry fully support the objective of protecting cabin crew alertness and well-being. At the same time, we believe it is important that the final regulation remains operationally implementable, proportionate to demonstrated fatigue risk, and harmonized with international regulatory frameworks, while recognising the unique operating environment in India," said the Feb 12 letter sent to the regulator. The FIA said the draft framework appears more restrictive than global standards.

The key concerns flagged were usage of "flight time" (total time from engine start to off) instead of "flight duty time" (total time from reporting for duty to leaving after final flight) as the primary controlling metric for daily scheduling and fatigue management.

# International tiger poacher 'Kalla Bawariya' gets 4-yr RI

**Bhopal:** A court in Madhya Pradesh's Narmadapuram sentenced international tiger poacher Adin Singh alias Kalla Bawariya and two of his accomplices to a four-year rigorous imprisonment on Wednesday.

The CJM court also fined them Rs 21,000 each.

Special Tiger Strike Force (STSF) nabbed Bawariya from Vidisha district on Aug 18, 2025, on intelligence inputs shared by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau. STSF subsequently coordinated with national and international enforcement agencies to trace Bawariya's criminal network, leading to the arrest of his two aides Pujari Singh and Ramkumar Singh Bawariya in 2025. It also arrested a woman identified as Teropi, a resident of Assam, for allegedly facilitating the gang's operations.

Through Union govt, STSF connected with South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network headquarters in Kathmandu to gather inputs from Nepal, where Kalla Bawariya is also wanted since 2012. TNN


**KARNATAKA STATE INDUSTRIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (KSIIDC)**
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
"Khanija Bhavan", 4th Floor, East Wing, 49, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001. Tel-080-22258131-2-3
E-mail: info@ksiidc.com web: www.ksiidc.karnataka.gov.in

**RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION**

Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (KSIIDC), invites applications from eligible and experienced candidates for the following post on contract basis:

| Sl. No. | Post Name | No. of Posts | Qualification & Experience | Age Limit | Consolidated Remuneration |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Assistant General Manager (Recovery) | 01 | Any Bachelor's Degree / LL.B. Retired personnel who have served as Assistant General Manager Recovery/ Legal or in equivalent positions in NBFCs or Scheduled Commercial Banks. | Not exceeding 65 years | Rs.1,00,000/- per month |

**General Instructions:**
- The appointment will be on a contract basis for a period of one year and extendable based on requirement and performance.
- Interested and eligible candidates may submit their application along with relevant testimonials.

**Submission of Application:**
Applications along with supporting documents may be submitted through speed post/ in person/through mail **within 15 days** from the date of publication of this notification to the above mentioned address. For Further clarification if any, please contact Mobile No: **98458-33566** and Email: **murthy.ksiidc@gmail.com**

**Sd/- Deputy General Manager (P&A)**



**GUJARAT MINERAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY**
**Commissioner of Geology and Mining**
PMC Laboratory, PDEU Road, Next to Solar Park, Raysan
Gandhinagar – 382007, Gujarat Web site: https://gmrds.gujarat.gov.in

The Gujarat Mineral Research and Development Society (GMRDS), an autonomous organization functioning under the Industries and Mines Department, is committed to advancing mineral research, exploration, and sustainable development in the state.

Proposals are invited from eligible bidders for below mentioned details:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Name of Work | RFP for Selection of Agency for undertaking Exploratory Core Drilling Activities in mineral potential blocks in state of Gujarat |
| 2 | Estimated Total drilling work (in mts.) | 3,000 mts. (maximum) |
| 3 | Last date for Submission | 05/03/2026 16:00 hrs |
| 4 | Detailed tender document/RFP can be downloaded from | https://cgm.gujarat.gov.in & https://gmrds.gujarat.gov.in |
| 5 | Director (Technical)-GMRDS E-mail address | director-tech-gmrds@gujarat.gov.in |

**NOTE:**
a. All queries regarding this Tender/RFP will be entertained **only via email** at the address mentioned above.
b. The Tender process will be conducted **online through the GeM portal** (Bid No.: GEM/2026/B/7200848). In addition, bidders must submit **one hard copy** of the technical evaluation document as specified in the RFP.
c. The awarded work will be executed in a **phase-wise manner.**
d. Bidders are required to strictly adhere to the **RFP conditions** and the **GeM tender terms & conditions.**

INF/2549/2025-26

**Sd/-**
**CEO, GMRDS**



**BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED**
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor,
BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

**No:DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/17/2025-26** **Date: 12.02.2026**

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)**
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the works mention in the below table.

| Sl No. | Package Name | Approx. Amount Put to Bid (Rs. in Crores) | EMD Amount (in Rs) | Stipulated Completion Period (Including Monsoon Period) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Material Recovery Facility having sorting, shredding, baling & storage system for handling a minimum 200 TPD of Dry Waste at **Doddabidarakallu** Plant under BBMP jurisdiction. **(Package -P1)** on own design build & transfer basis. (DBT) Call-3 | 28.39 (Including GST) | 28,39,000/- | 12 Months |
| 2 | Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Material Recovery Facility having sorting, shredding, baling & storage system for handling a minimum 200 TPD of Dry Waste at **Subbarayanapalya** Plant under BBMP jurisdiction. **(Package -P2)** on own design build & transfer basis. (DBT) Call-3 | 20.69 (Including GST) | 20,69,000/- | 12 Months |
| 3 | Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Material Recovery Facility having sorting shredding, baling & storage system for handling a minimum 826 TPD of Dry Waste at **Tarahunase** under BBMP jurisdiction **(Package -P3)** on own design build & transfer basis. (DBT) Call-3 | 76.44 (Including GST) | 76,44,000/- | 12 Months |

**CALENDER OF EVENTS:** 1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in kpp portal: 21.02.2026 before 4:00 pm. 2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: 23.02.2026 at 3:00 pm at above mentioned office. 3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender 02.03.2026 upto 4:00 pm. 4) Opening of Technical Bid: 03.03.2026 at 4:30 pm.

**More details can be downloaded from website - http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/5623/CCL/2025-26

**Sd/-**
**Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, Bengaluru**



**KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD**
**(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)**
**No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in**

**No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-05/01690/2025-26** **Date: 12.02.2026**

**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER**
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites tender from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned below:-

**Name of the work:** Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan Design and Feasibility Report for External Water Supply Scheme to Kuduthini, Mundaragi, Sanjeevarayanakote, Ananthapura & future Industrial Area in Ballari District.

- Last Date for submission of Bids: **04.03.2026** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/5621/CCL/2025-26

**Sd/-**
**Chief Engineer-2, KIADB, Bengaluru**



**HIMACHAL PRADESH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**
**(Government of Himachal Pradesh)**

REQUEST FOR EMPANELMENT (RFE) FOR MERCHANT BANKERS cum ARRANGERS AND ADVISORS

The Government of Himachal Pradesh through H.P. Infrastructure Development Board (HPIDB) invites RFE for the Empanelment of Merchant Bankers-cum-Arrangers and Advisors to assist & advise the designate HP Government PSUs/ Organizations in raising debt through loans and bond issuances. The empanelment will create a pool of financial institutions that can be engaged on a case-by-case basis to provide a range of services, including structuring, advising, arranging, and executing debt raising transactions.

The RFE Document shall be available from **12-Feb-2026** at https://hptenders.gov.in Bidders are requested to submit their proposals online as per the prescribed formats on or before **07-Mar-2026 by 5:00 PM**. A pre-bid meeting shall be organized for the same on **21-Feb-2026** at **11:00 AM** through online and physical mode at the office of HPIDB, Shimla. Online link shall be provided on the e-procurement portal.

**The last date for submission of proposal is 07.03.2026 Upto 5:00 PM**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Chief General Manager**
**Himachal Pradesh Infrastructure Development Board**
New Himrus Building, Circular Road, Himland
Shimla-171001, Himachal Pradesh, India
Phone No.: +91 177-2626696, 2627312
Email: hpidb-hp@nic.in; website: https://hpidb.hp.gov.in/



**कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग, अजमेर**

क्रमांक:- अमुअ/अज./तक./एफ-2(30ए) निविदा/डी-3514 दिनांक:- 06.02.2026
NIB No.:- PWD2526A5108.
UBN No.:- PWD2526WLOB20825, PWD2526WSOB20826, PWD2526WSOB20827, PWD2526WSOB20828, PWD2526WSOB20829, PWD2526WSOB20830 & PWD2526WSOB20831.

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DIPR/C/2890/2026

Sd/-
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सा.नि.वि., संभाग, अजमेर ।

PRM/KA/RERA/1259/303/PR/170905/000071

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# Def min inks ₹2,312-cr deal with HAL for 8 Dornier aircraft for Coast Guard

Surendra.Singh@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Giving a push to 'Make-in-India' initiative, the defence ministry on Thursday inked a Rs 2,312 crore contract with defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for production of eight Dornier 228 Aircraft for the Indian Coast Guard.

The contract was signed under the "buy (Indian) category" in the presence of defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. The contract reinforces the govt's commitment to Aatmanirbhar Bharat while bolstering India's maritime security architecture.

The programme is expected to generate significant direct and indirect employment by strengthening HAL's production ecosystem. It will also create sustained opportunities in maintenance, repair and overhaul, and life cycle technical support, the defence ministry said.

As of today, HAL is engaged in a wide array of defence projects, managing a massive order book that involves production of 180+ Tejas Mk-1A fighters and development of Tejas Mk-II; development and production of Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), Prachand (156 additional units ordered), Indian multirole helicopter (IMRH), light utility helicopter (LUH), and Dhruv advanced light helicopter (ALH); production of 70 HTT-40 basic trainers; and licenced production of Su-30MKI engines and MiG-29 upgrades.

HAL on Thursday reported a strong financial performance for the Dec quarter of the current financial year as the defence PSU posted a 29.6% year-on-year rise in its consolidated net profit.

# Trapped for 12 hrs after bike falls into mud-filled pit, UP man dies

## Cries For Help May Have Gone Unheard: Cops

Faiz.Siddiqui@timesofindia.com

**Kanpur:** In a grim reminder of the recent tragedies in Delhi-NCR that snuffed out two young lives in deadly pits, a 25-year-old man remained trapped for nearly 12 hours after his motorcycle fell into a mud-filled ditch on a deserted road in Kanpur Dehat, and later died in hospital on Wednesday.

Police said Dhirendra Kumar, a welder at Panki Power House, was returning home around on Tuesday evening when his motorcycle lost balance and fell into a roadside pit near Kadri village, 45 km from the city. As the road is frequented by very few people post sundown and the pit is deep, his cries for help may have gone unnoticed, they said.

Dhirendra remained trapped overnight in the cold, and was smeared in mud when he was noticed by some farmers around 6 am on Wednesday.

Villagers and passersby helped him out of the pit. His body was stiff from the cold and covered in mud. Villagers lit a fire to warm him, cleaned his face and called an ambulance to take him to a hospital in Shivli town. However, Dhirendra succumbed during treatment.

His brother, Brijendra Kumar, said the family was worried when he did not return home on Tuesday night, and got the devastating news in the morning.

Shivli police station in-charge Praveen Yadav said the dark road and the pit's depth made him invisible and he couldn't be rescued.

On Jan 17, Noida software engineer Yuvraj Mehta, 27, drowned after his SUV fell into a water-filled trench dug up for construction work in Noida, even as rescuers and onlookers watched him crying out from his sinking car.

### Techie critical after bike collides with bull

**Noida:** A 29-year-old software engineer is battling critical brain injuries after his motorcycle collided with a stray bull on an arterial road in Noida's Sector 168, an incident that has once again drawn attention to the persistent problem of free-roaming cattle on the city's streets and the dangers they pose to motorists, **reports Ayantika Pal.**

Prakhar Bhardwaj, recently moved to Noida from Bengaluru and was returning home from his office in Greater Noida's Knowledge Park IV at around 6.50pm on Tuesday when the accident occurred. He is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Delhi. CCTV footage of the incident shows Bhardwaj riding on the wrong side along the Sector 168 stretch and crashing into the bull walking near the median verge of the road. The impact throws Bhardwaj onto the road as the motorcycle skids away. Family members said Bhardwaj was riding slowly and wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. In a post on social media, his cousin Pranav Bhardwaj said the bull appeared to panic and attacked him. "The impact knocked him off balance and threw him into the other lane," he said.

## Four get life in jail for raping, poisoning teen girl to death

**Bareilly:** A Pocso court in Meerut sentenced four men to life imprisonment for gang-raping a 16-year-old minor girl and poisoning her, and also imposed a fine of Rs 25 each on the convicts, reports Krishna Chaudhary. ADGC Avkesh Jain said, "The crime took place on April 1, 2021, when the victim left her house around 3:30 pm. She returned at 5:15 pm hobbling, and was in great pain. Before her condition deteriorated, she told her mother that one Lakhan and three others intercepted her and dragged her into a sugarcane field, where they violated her. They let her go after threatening her with dire consequences if she told anyone."

# *Move heels a bit to reduce post-meal sugar spike*

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** What if lowering your blood sugar did not require a treadmill, gym membership or even standing up? A new scientific review published in Diabetes & Metabolic Syndrome: Clinical Research & Reviews suggests that something as simple as lifting your heels while sitting could sharply reduce post-meal sugar spikes. At a time when India is facing a surge in type 2 diabetes — increasingly among younger and sedentary adults — researchers say targeted lower-limb muscle activity may offer a practical, low-cost tool for millions.

The review highlights the role of the soleus muscle, located deep in the calf. Unlike larger leg muscles that fatigue quickly, the soleus is built for endurance and can remain active for extended periods. "We often think of the heart as the only vital pump in the body, but the soleus muscle in the calf acts as a 'second heart.' When activated regularly, it not only improves circulation but also works like a powerful metabolic sink — helping remove excess sugar from the bloodstream, even while we are sitting," said a lead author Dr Raju Vaishya, Apollo Hospital, Delhi.

In experiments reviewed, seated soleus contractions during a three-hour glucose test reduced post-meal sugar by 39-52% and cut insulin response by 60% compared to prolonged sitting. Disrupting sitting every 30 minutes with three minutes of light leg activity reduced insulin spikes by 26% in overweight adults.

The science is straightforward. Skeletal muscle accounts for nearly 80% of glucose uptake after meals. Activating the soleus stimulates insulin-independent pathways that help transport glucose into muscle cells, making it particularly useful for people with insulin resistance.

## DAC nod govt's biggest vote of confidence on multirole Rafale fighter

▸ Continued from page 1

The rest will be manufactured with Dassault-HAL collaboration in India. The other purchases cleared by DAC include those for P-8I Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft from US aviation major Boeing, combat missiles and high-altitude pseudo satellite. The total cost of all the acquisitions, including Rafales, cleared on Thursday works out to Rs 3.6 lakh crore.

The DAC nod for more Rafale jets is the govt's biggest vote of confidence on the French multirole fighter, which IAF vice-chief Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor described just a day before as the "Operation Sindoor hero" for its precision strikes on Pakistan's terror infrastructure and military bases. The confrontation with Pakistan saw a systematic campaign by social media influencers, suspected to be backed by Pakistan and China, to discredit the French aircraft amid unconfirmed reports of the French fighter jet being downed.

The IAF currently operates 36 Rafale jets and the Indian Navy last year placed orders for 26 of its naval variant. Once the 114-jet deal gets completed, IAF will have a fleet of 150 Rafales. "The procurement of Multi Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) will enhance the capability of undertaking air dominance roles across the spectrum of conflict and significantly boost the deterrence capabilities of IAF with long-range offensive strikes. The majority of MRFA to be procured will be manufactured in India," the defence ministry said. Besides the 20-odd aircraft to be procured in fly-away condition, the rest will be "made in India" with up to 50-60% indigenous content.

IAF desperately needs the 114 Rafale jets as it currently operates just 29 fighter squadrons, well short of its sanctioned strength of 42, at a time when the threat perception from Pakistan and China is rising, especially after last year's conflict. A formal contract following the DAC nod will take some time as the defence ministry will have to carry out negotiations with Dassault Aviation to finalise the cost and finer details of the weapons package and then the PM Modi-led Cabinet Committee on Security will have to give its final approval.

## BSF jawan gets 3yrs' RI for sexual assault on minor

Mohammad.Dilshad@timesofindia.com

**Agra:** A Pocso court in Mathura has sentenced a 35-year-old Border Security Force (BSF) jawan to three years of rigorous imprisonment for "sexually assaulting" a 14-year-old girl on the road while she was on her way to school and threatening her with death, additional district govt counsel Alka Upmanyu said on Thursday.

The incident took place on Dec 10, 2021, when the minor, a student of an inter-college, was waiting with her younger brother for an auto to go to her school. According to the prosecution, the convict, who lived in the neighbourhood, arrived on a motorcycle, stopped near the children and forcibly grabbed the girl.

When she and her 11-year-old brother resisted, the BSF jawan assaulted the boy and threatened to kill them if they reported the incident. He fled the spot after some locals gathered, the prosecution said.

In her written complaint to the police, the girl's mother said that the convict had been harassing her daughter for some time. Based on the complaint, a case was registered under IPC sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 354 (assault or criminal force with intent to outrage modesty) and 506 (criminal intimidation), along with sections 7 and 8 of the Pocso Act. The man was arrested and produced before the court. A chargesheet was later filed, and he was granted bail. "The court also imposed a fine of Rs 12,000, stipulating that failure to pay the amount would result in an additional five months of imprisonment," the ADGC said.


34001/66/2526 E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in cebuildingsodisha@rediffmail.com Tel: (0674) 2391633

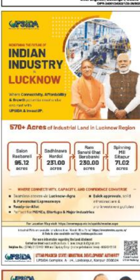
**OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA**
**NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR**
**INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)**

File No- B-III-Sports-07/2025 Lr. No.-4745 Bhubaneswar, the 11th Feb., 2026

**Invitation for Bids**
**Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 59/2025-26**

1. The Chief Engineer, Buildings-I, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the work, "Development of Vyasanagar Stadium, Jajpur" as detailed below.
2. Nature of work : Building Work
3. No. of work : 01 No.
4. Bid Cost : Rs.10,000/-
5. Class of Contractor : 'A'/ Special
6. Availability of Bid Documents in the website : From dt.16.02.2026 to 17.00 Hours of dt.05.03.2026.
7. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt.06.03.2026 at 11:30 AM.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Buildings-I, Odisha
OIPR-34001/34003/1/20-26/9029

**KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD**
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-81/2064/2025-26 Date: 12.02.2026

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

**Name of the work:** Resurfacing of MDR Road from BM Road Junction to Bidadi Industrial Area, 2nd Phase, Sector-1 & 2 Junction (Shanumangala Village), Bidadi Hobli Ramanagar Taluk, Bengaluru South District. (Four Lane) (Ch:0.00 to 1.90 Km)

• Last Date for submission of Bids: **13.03.2026** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Sd/-

DIPR/CP/5627/CCL/2025-26 Chief Engineer-1, KIADB, Bengaluru

**KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD**
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-80/2066/2025-26 Date: 12.02.2026

**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER**
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the Package work as per the schedule given below:

**Work Details Under Package :** **a)** Upgradation of Industrial Area of 13m wide asphalt road including construction of RCC Side drains of Somanahalli Industrial Area Mandya Taluk, Mandya District & **b)** Upgradation of Industrial Area of 18m & 24m wide asphalt roads including construction of RCC Side Drains of Gejjalagere Industrial Area, Mandya Taluk, Mandya District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **27.02.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/5626/Zen/2025-26 Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**
E-Tender Notice No. HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-30 dated 06.02.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

| Name of Work | Approx.Value |
|---|---|
| Annual maintenance including supply and installation of mast change materials/ spares and scheduled maintenance of Tower Wagons of Hubballi Division for the period of 2 years. | Rs. 11,12,11,794.92/- |

Last date for Submission of bids : Upto 11.00 hrs on 10.03.2026
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD/Hubballi

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**LIC**
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
**Bid Notice/E-Tender Notice**
LIC of India invites response to RFP for E-Tender for premium (excluding GST) of Group Mediclaim Policy for their employees, retired employees and their eligible family members for the year 2026-27. Interested General / Health Insurance companies may Visit http://www.tenderwizard.com/LIC and www.licindia.in for further details.
13.02.2026 Executive Director (Personnel)

**S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER**
[illegible]

**HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT**
**ENGINEERING WING**
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560 023 Phone: 080-29587023 e-mail: cekhadrp@gmail.com
No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1&3/AE-1,4,6&9/TND/2025-26/3963 Date: 11.02.2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Tenders are invited from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two Tender document system in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform for the following works.

| Sl. No. | Description of works | Approximate Amount Put to tender (Excluding GST) (Rs. in lakhs) | EMD (Rs. in Lakhs) | Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Construction and Providing Dumb Lifts (2 No's) to Centrally Sterilized Services Department (CSSD) at Services Floor in GIMs Hospital Kalaburagi. | 204.00 | 3.06 | 06 Months |
| 2 | Additional 2500 KVA Transformer and Necessary Accessories to Existing 2.5 MVA New Sub Station at GIMS Hospital Kalaburagi. | 188.65 | 2.83 | 06 Months |
| 3 | Construction and Providing 20 passenger lift (04) Nos. to GIMS Hospital in GIMS Kalaburgi. | 477.50 | 7.16 | 06 Months |
| 4 | Construction of Directorate of Medical Education (DME) Building at Jayanagar, Bengaluru - Phase-II. | 1836.00 | 18.36 | 11 Months |
| 5 | Providing & Supplying Furnitures to Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences at Chikkamagaluru. | 816.12 | 12.25 | 05 Months |
| 6 | Upgradation of PHC to CHC at Maski in Maski Taluk of Raichur District (Balance Work) | 235.00 | 3.53 | 06 Months |

**Sl No: 1 to 5** - Under Medical Education Funds, **Sl No: 6** - 4210-01-110-1-01-386 State Funds
**Calendar of Events: Sl No: 1,3,4,5 & 6: (1)** Last date for receipt of tenders: **16.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **17.03.2026 at 16.01 hrs.**
**Calendar of Events for Sl.No.2: (1)** Last date for receipt of tenders: **27.02.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **02.03.2026 at 16.01 hrs.**
The tender details can be downloaded from the **KPP Portal** Platform | **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/tenders** shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the **KPP Portal** Platform to participate in this tender.
**NOTE:** (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. (2) Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

StudyIn

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# UTTAR PRADESH
## ACCELERATES PHARMACEUTICAL GROWTH WITH GLOBAL AMBITIONS

**Uttar Pradesh Pharma Conclave 1.0** showcased the state's investor-friendly policies, strong infrastructure push and growing focus on pharmaceuticals, medical devices and healthcare innovation, positioning UP as a global manufacturing hub

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

- The conclave highlighted Uttar Pradesh's transformation into a trusted, stable and investor-friendly destination, driven by robust policy support, streamlined regulations and strict adherence to the rule of law.
- Infrastructure-led growth emerged as a core focus, with plans for bulk drug parks, medical device parks and advanced testing facilities aligned with global standards.
- The upcoming bulk drug park, Lalitpur, is being developed on a hub-and-spoke model, integrating large-scale manufacturing with research and development capabilities.
- The event showcased significant progress in ease of doing business, supported by regulatory reforms, de-criminalisation of several state laws, inspection exemptions for MSMEs and simplified approval processes.
- MoUs worth ₹10,000 crore finalised at 'Pharma Conclave'.
- Of these, 11 MoUs worth ₹5,525 crore related to pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and allied sectors were formally exchanged on stage.

## LALITPUR ON AN EXPANSION SPREE

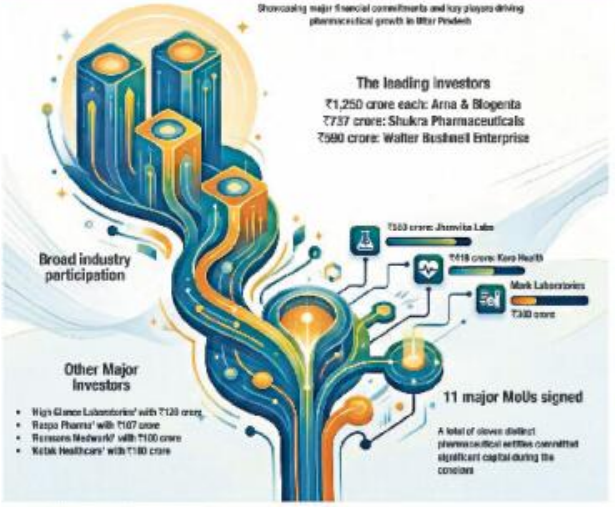
### PHARMA & BULK DRUG PARK, LALITPUR

- Total Extent: 1,472 acres
- Phase 1: 353 acres
- Phase 2: 1,119 acres
- Saleable Area: 67%
- Green Space: 13%
- RoW: 30m &18m

### INFRASTRUCTURE AND EXPANSION ROADMAP

- Master Plan & DPR approved for Phase-1 (352.91 Acres)
- State-of-the-art facilities with Plug & Play infrastructure
- 1100 acres second phase ready for Public Private Partnership
- Environmental clearance obtained
- Near to Bina Refinery for raw materials

## INVESTMENT SURGE: UP PHARMA CONCLAVE 1.0




## CONNECTIVITY OF LALITPUR PHARMA PARK

### ROAD

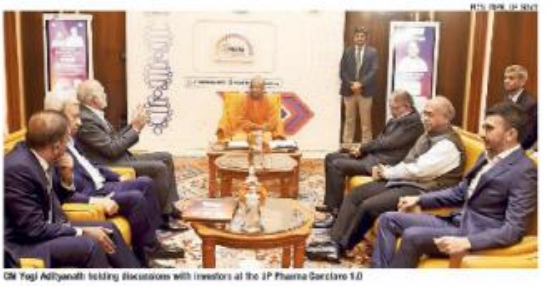
- Bundelkhand Expressway: 120 km
- Chitrakoot Link Expressway: 160 km
- MDR-35B passes through the site
- NH-44 (Srinagar to Kanyakumari): approx 44 km
- NH-539 (Jhansi to Shahgarh): approx 31 km

### RAIL

- Tikamgarh Railway Station: Approx 35 km
- Lalitpur Railway Junction: Approx 50 km

### AIR

- Khajuraho Airport: 125 km
- Gwalior Airport: 270 km Datia Airport: 177 km Lalitpur Airstrip: 50 km (Land given to AAI)
- Jhansi (Proposed): 45 km



CM Yogi Adityanath holding discussions with investors at the UP Pharma Conclave 1.0

## LALITPUR PHARMA PARK: INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE

### UTILITIES

#### GREEN/CLEAN SOLUTIONS

- Solid waste management: 3.53 TPD
- Steam generation & distribution: 75 TPH
- Common warehousing: 2,013 Sqm

#### SUPPORT FOR MSME DEVELOPMENT

- Solvent storage yard: 240 KL
- Solvent recovery: 60 KL/Day
- 24x7 Quality water: 6.44 MLD, WTP, Distn Network

#### EMERGENCY CENTRE

- Waste water management: 4.57 MLD CETP
- Reliable power: 33/11 KV SS (2 Nos.)
- Smart solutions: CCTV surveillance

#### PHARMA PARKS

- Proposed Pharma Park at Lalitpur spanning 353 acres in Phase I and 1119 acres in Phase II.
- Medical Device Park at Noida spread over 350 acres

#### CHEMICAL PARKS

- Plastic processing parks at Auraiya and Gorakhpur spread over 150 acres in total
- Perfume Park set up in Kannauj over 60 acres

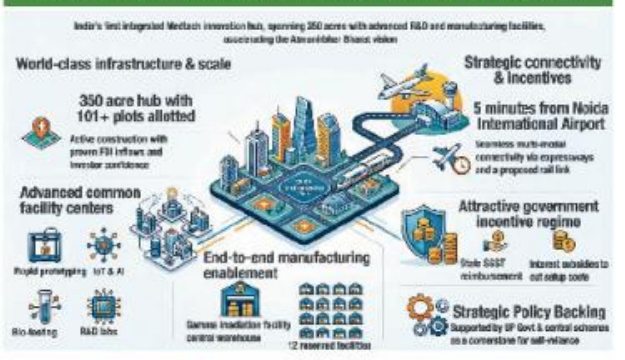
### PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Roads: 3.29 Kms
- Storm water drains: Approx 8.0 kms
- Boundary fencing: Approx 8.0 kms
- Common logistics: 6.28 acres

### TECHNOLOGY CENTRES

- Common laboratory: 7,900 sqm
- Centre of excellence (Admin): 2,600 Sqm
- Emergency response centre: 650 Sqm

## INDIA'S PREMIER MEDTECH HUB: YEIDA MEDICAL DEVICE PARK



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, accompanied by senior officials and dignitaries, at the inauguration of the UP Pharma Conclave 1.0

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

# After Wangchuk's arrest, Ladakh peaceful: Centre

## Hearing To Resume In SC On Feb 16

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** The Centre on Thursday told Supreme Court that normalcy returned in the UT of Ladakh after the detention of climate activist **Sonam Wangchuk** and the decision to take him into custody proved to be right.

Additional solicitor general (ASG) KM Nataraj told a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and P B Varale that the agitation and violence in Ladakh came under control after Wangchuk's detention as he was the chief provocateur of the violence in Sept last year. "He was the chief provocateur that led to the violence in which four people were killed. After his detention, the agitation and violence came under control. Hence, it was proved that the detention order was a perfect order, which was justified in the situation," Nataraj said.

The ASG said all procedural requirements were meticulously complied with during Wangchuk's detention. "Once there is compliance of statutory requirements, there is no question to sit over the subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority. Such order can be passed on suspicion or reasonable probability," he said.

Hearing will resume on Feb 16 when senior advocate Kapil Sibal argues the case on behalf of the activist.

## Ladakh won't get statehood or place in 6th schedule: Govt

Naseer.Ganai@timesofindia.com

**Jammu:** The Centre has made it clear that Ladakh will not be granted Sixth Schedule status or statehood, two key demands of Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), the region's two major political organisations said after talks in New Delhi last week.

The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution allows special administrative arrangements for tribal areas to safeguard autonomy, culture and land. Speaking publicly for the first time after the Feb 4 talks with a Union home ministry (MHA) high-powered committee, Ladakh leaders said the Centre had instead offered a "territorial council" model.

Under this proposal, chief executive councillor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) will be designated as CM and the deputy chief executive councillor as deputy CM.

"We call it a farce. LAB and KDA rejected it (the offer), except for one KDA member, Kunzes Dolma," KDA co-chairman Asgar Ali Karbali.

According to Karbali, Dolma had earlier supported KDA's agenda and was nominated as a member for the talks. "She told the committee that a conspiracy was hatched to remove her and that she is satisfied with the Union Territory status for Ladakh. We will not tolerate anyone, whether Dolma or anyone else, who plays with Ladakhi identity," he said.

# Judicial responsibility calls for honest engagement: SC

▸ Continued from page 1

The SC said charges are to be framed only if the court forms an opinion that there is a ground for presuming that the accused has committed an offence and said HCs should also apply its mind on discharge plea and not to reject it mechanically.

"...at the stage of framing of charge or considering discharge, the court is not dealing with an abstract legal exercise. It is dealing with real people, real anxieties, and the real weight of criminal prosecution. Judicial responsibility at this stage calls for care, balance, and an honest engagement with the facts on record. The power to frame a charge is not meant to be exercised by default or out of caution alone. When the material placed before the court, taken at face value, does not disclose the ingredients of an offence, the law expects the court to have the clarity and courage to say so and to keep such a case aside," Justice Karol, who wrote the judgement for the bench, said.

The bench said discharge is not a technical indulgence "but an essential safeguard".

"The Court must consciously distinguish between a genuine case that warrants a trial and one that rests only on suspicion or assumption or for that matter without any basis. To allow a matter to proceed despite the absence of a prima facie case is to expose a person to the strain, stigma, and uncertainty of criminal proceedings without legal necessity. Fidelity to the rule of law requires the court to remember that the process itself can become the punishment if this responsibility is not exercised with care," it said.

The bench said the responsibility weighs the heaviest on trial courts.

# Seattle settlement: Grief remains for kin

▸ Continued from page 1

A joint motion seeking court approval of the settlement was filed recently, marking a major development in a case that drew international outrage.

For Jaahnavi's father, however, the legal battle and public outrage did little to ease his grief. He was under immense emotional strain since his daughter's death and went on long leave. He was recently posted as head constable at Guntakal and was on his way to assume charge when he suffered a heart attack after boarding an autorickshaw from Guntakal railway station.

Family members said he silently carried the weight of his loss. "He struggled every day after Jaahnavi's death," said Sridhar, uncle of Jaahnavi, adding that it was particularly tragic he did not live to know that the compensation was finally granted.

On the night of Jan 23, 2023, Jaahnavi was crossing a road when she was struck by the speeding police patrol vehicle. The car, driven by officer Kevin Dave, was travelling at 119kmph in a zone with speed caps at 40km. The impact threw her nearly 100 feet, killing her instantly. The tragedy triggered widespread anger after body camera footage revealed another officer, Daniel Auderer, vice-president of the Seattle Police Officers Guild, laughing and making insensitive remarks about her death.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

To Whomsoever It May Concern

Our client, **M/s ALDECOR INFRASTRUCTURE PVT. LTD.**, #382, Kalyani Garden, Gangamma Temple Street, Ashok Nagar, BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore – 560050, has instructed us to state: That, Ms. Pavithra Haledanavasa Narayan, residing at 1st A Cross, 24th Main, JP Nagar 2nd Phase, Opp. Mikona Hospital, Bangalore – 560078, was formerly working from the date of 1st March 2024 to 14th November 2025 as Director – Business Development in our client's company, is no longer associated with our client's company effectively from 14th November 2025.

Further, Ms. Pavithra Haledanavasa Narayan, her henchmen, agents, friends, servants, and all other acting on her behalf of are not authorized to represent, deal, or transact on behalf of our client's company, i.e., the Aldecor Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.

Any individual, or entity dealing with the above said person regarding Aldecor Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. company matters Shall do so at their own risk and responsibility. Aldecor Infrastructure Pvt Ltd., Shall not be held liable or responsible for any acts, deeds, or transactions entered into by Ms. Pavithra Haledanavasa Narayan and her henchman, agents, friends, servants and all other from henceforth.

Vivek N.G., Advocate
Diwakara & Associates
114, Shalimar Plaza, Palace Guttahalli Main Road, Malleshwaram, 8th Cross Bengaluru – 560 003
Ph: +91 97408 05887
Email: office@diwakara.in

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**

**TELANGANA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED (TGIIC)**

(e-Auction Notification No: 2024-4/TGIIC/LANDS /E-AUCTION/2025 Dated 12-02-2026)

**TGIIC provides an Opportunity to Own Encumbrance Free Prime Land Parcels Zoned Under Multi-Use at Osman Nagar, Ramachandrapuram Mandal, Sanga Reddy District, Telangana**

The Government of Telangana is desirous of calling bids for sale of certain Government land parcels strategically located in Sy.No. 30, Osman Nagar, Ramachandrapuram Mandal, Sanga Reddy District, Telangana, on **"As is where is Basis"** through **e-Auction**. TGIIC, on behalf of the Government of Telangana, invites bids for sale of the following land parcels through e-Auction.

**e-Auction Schedule**

| Sl. No. | Plot No. | Name of Village & Mandal | Sy. No. | Extent* (Acres) | Extent* (sq. yds.) | Geo-location | Land Use | Upset Reserve Price (Rs.Crore per acre) | Minimum Bid Increment per Acre or Multiples thereof (in Rs. Crores) | Pre-bid EMD (Rs. Crores) | Last date for Registration, Pre-bid EMD Payment and Bid Document Fee | Date of e-Auction | Pre-bid Meeting at T-Hub, Raidurg, Hyderabad |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 1 | Osman Nagar, Ramachandrapuram (M) | 30 | ~10.09 | ~48,834 | [QR] | Multi-use | 35.00 | 0.25 | 5.00 | 06-03-2026 Time: Till 5.00 PM | 10-03-2025 Time: 11:00 AM to 2.00 PM | 18-02-2026 Time: 11:30 AM |
| 2. | 4 | Osman Nagar, Ramachandrapuram (M) | 30 | ~6.00 | ~29,072 | [QR] | Multi-use | 39.00 | 0.25 | 5.00 | | | |
| 3. | 2 | Osman Nagar, Ramachandrapuram (M) | 30 | ~7.00 | ~33,928 | [QR] | Multi use | 38.00 | 0.25 | 5.00 | 11-03-2026 Time: Till 5:00 PM | 13-03-2026 Time: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM | |
| 4. | 5 | Osman Nagar, Ramachandrapuram (M) | 30 | ~4.05 | ~19,612 | [QR] | Multi-use | 39.00 | 0.25 | 5.00 | | | |
| 5. | 6 | Osman Nagar, Ramachandrapuram (M) | 30 | ~5.72 | ~27,700 | [QR] | Multi-use | 39.00 | 0.25 | 5.00 | | | |
| 6. | 3 | Osman Nagar, Ramachandrapuram (M) | 30 | ~7.00 | ~33,940 | [QR] | Multi-use | 33.00 | 0.25 | 5.00 | 13-03-2026 Time: Till 5.00 PM | 16-03-2026 Time: 11:00 AM to 2.00 PM | |
| 7. | 7 | Osman Nagar, Ramachandrapuram (M) | 30 | ~7.69 | ~37,190 | [QR] | Multi use | 39.00 | 0.25 | 5.00 | | | |

* The land extent mentioned above is provisional and indicative only. The exact land extent shall be determined by a joint survey to be carried out with the successful bidder.

**DATE OF NOTIFICATION: 12-02-2026**
**REGISTRATION FEE:** Rs. 1,180/- incl. of GST *(non-refundable)*
**BID DOCUMENT FEE: Rs. 11.80 Lakhs + GST** *(non-refundable)* **to be paid to TGIIC**
Details of e-brochure and other terms & conditions shall be available from **13-02-2026** at **https://www.tgiic.telangana.gov.in** and **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/govts/index.jsp**
**For further details on TGIIC Land Parcels for e-Auction:**
Log on to https://www.tgiic.telangana.gov.in
**For Registration and e-Auction details and Participation log on to**
https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/govts/index.jsp

CONTACT INFORMATION
For Site Visit:
Shri. D. Ravi, Chief Engineer, M: 77299 83714
Smt. M Kavitha, Zonal Manager, M: 90481 10512
Shri. Siddharth Varad, Manager, M: 8801374754
Shri. Sai Dinesh Kumar T, Sr Assistant, M: 7793173030
Transaction Advisor:
Surya Kiran Balla – Senior Director, M: 90125 99077
Kalyan Koppula – Senior Director, M: 99665 22177
Sujith S – Senior Manager, M: 90133 05604

# FM: No cut in funds to states, release now tied to delivery

## 'Focus Is Not On Outlays But On Outcomes'

Times News Network

> We have absolute transparency... There is no denial or stoppage of funds to any state or scheme. Every rupee of taxpayer is accounted for. Centre's funds are not a free pool of cash. They're hard-earned contributions of every Indian
>
> NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

**New Delhi:** Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Thursday that the Centre's fund is not a "free pool of cash that can be used at will", asserting that every rupee of the taxpayer is accounted for and that there is no denial or stoppage of funds to any state or any scheme. Dismissing opposition charges that funds have been slashed, she said their release is linked to delivery on the ground.

Replying to the discussion on the Budget in RS, the FM said India is on a robust growth trajectory with low unemployment and an expanding middle class. Sitharaman said India is witnessing a rare macro-economic phase of elevated growth and low inflation, enabled by sustained efforts, planning, timely interventions and reforms. She said Budget steps show the resolve to build a resilient and self-reliant India.

On criticism over welfare funding, Sitharaman said, "Earlier, success was measured by how much money was pushed out without ensuring spending. It created a huge float. We now have absolute transparency. We do not blindly release funds to book expenditure; we release them only when required at the ground level. There is no denial or stoppage of funds to any state or scheme. Every rupee of the taxpayer is accounted for. Centre's funds are not a free pool of cash. They are hard-earned contributions of every Indian."

Lashing out at Congress for shedding "crocodile tears about rising debt", she said the opposition wants govt to borrow more and release funds to states. "The govt cannot borrow excessively. That principle guides us. Congress is obsessed with outlays, but we give money only for outcomes. We want results," she added.

Sitharaman rejected charges of high inflation, saying inflation is at a historic low and there is no inflation crisis today. "Inflation has been tamed due to stability and steps taken by the govt. Growth without jobs was a UPA-era story," she said.

She attacked the TMC-led Bengal govt, alleging it does not implement welfare schemes financed by Centre, depriving people of benefits. She also countered DMK claims that no big-ticket announcement was made for poll-bound Tamil Nadu, listing Budget proposals for the state.

Responding to former finance minister P Chidambaram's remark calling the Budget "forgettable", Sitharaman said, "Budget is never forgetful of the past. Cherish a glorious past, but learn from a tarnished one and avoid repeating mistakes." The remarks were made amid continued political sparring in Parliament.

# Spoke truth in House, won't back down, asserts leader of opposition

## 'Cong Will Not Allow Injustice To Farmers'

Times News Network

'Whatever govt may do... we won't allow injustice,' said Rahul Gandhi

**New Delhi:** Congress' Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said he spoke the truth in Parliament and will not back down even if BJP moves a privilege motion or files a police case against him.

In a video, Gandhi said Congress and the country fought for food security, but PM Narendra Modi has betrayed the farmers by "selling out cotton, soybean, apple and fruit growers". Foreigners have been trying for a long time to capture India's agriculture market and Modi has opened the doors for them because "Donald Trump controls his reins".

He said farmers in the US have large, mechanised farms and receive govt subsidies, while Indian farmers have small landholdings without mechanised farming and don't get MSP either.

"File a case against me, abuse me, move a privilege motion. It does not matter. I spoke the truth in Parliament. You may not like it, but the country understands the truth. Whatever the govt may do, I am with the farmers and won't back down. Congress is with the farmers. We won't allow injustice," Gandhi said.

Congress MP and general secretary KC Venugopal said, "We are not bothered about any motions and if you want to hang us, we are ready for that also. We will continue to tell the truth in Parliament." He said BJP had taken away Gandhi's LS membership in 2023, but he bounced back with more votes in the next election.

Venugopal also lashed out at Modi govt over removal of parts of Gandhi's speech from Lok Sabha records. "Whatever Gandhi said is completely expunged from the records. Whatever Nirmala Sitharaman said, the same remarks were included in the records. Govt has double standards... This Parliament is running for the govt, not for the opposition," he said.

## Oppn attacks Modi, stages protest in Parl complex

**New Delhi:** Opposition MPs Thursday staged a protest in the Parliament complex over the India-US interim trade deal, accusing Modi govt of surrendering Indian interests. They also lent support to trade unions' nationwide bandh against the newly-notified labour codes.

Mallikarjun Kharge, T R Baalu, Dharmendra Yadav, K C Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Sudama Prasad, among a host of MPs, raised slogans at the Parliament entrance while holding a huge banner emblazoned with "Trap Deal", and carrying "Narender Surrender" posters.

Leader of the opposition Rahul Gandhi accused govt of "ignoring" the voices of workers and farmers while making decisions concerning their future.

Kharge said trade unions, farmers, and workers are on the streets against Modi govt's trade deal, labour laws and "snatching away" of MGNREGA. "We stand firmly against the anti-people 'Trap Deal', which has mortgaged the future of millions of toiling farmers, workers, and labourers. Succumbing to foreign pressure, Modi govt has tampered with the lives of crores of citizens of the country," he said.

Gandhi wondered if PM Modi will listen to farmers and workers now, or if the "grip" on him is too strong, in what was a reference to his LS speech. Kharge said, "From the streets to Parliament, our struggle will continue."

MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "Govt is betraying the farmers. The kind of trade deal they have signed will result in suffering for farmers. We are supporting labour unions in their strike today." In a meeting with party Lok Sabha MPs later, Rahul praised the opposition for dominating first half of the Budget session and for cornering govt on critical issues. TNN

# Jairam beats hasty retreat after SC gives him mouthful

**New Delhi:** Congress MP **Jairam Ramesh** had to beat a retreat in Supreme Court on Thursday with a CJI Surya Kant-led bench taking exception to what it called a "design" to challenge an SC order and threatening to impose exemplary cost, reports **Dhananjay Mahapatra**.

The response came on a petition filed by Ramesh challenging govt's office memorandum issued last month to implement SC's Nov 18 judgment that regularised retrospective environment clearance for public projects.

On Nov 18, a three-judge bench, by a two-to-one majority, had recalled SC's May 16, 2025, judgment which had directed demolition of projects worth Rs 20,000 crore on grounds that though they had paid penalty, they were illegally given ex-post facto environment clearance.

When Ramesh's counsel Muhammad Ali Khan began his arguments challenging the Jan OM allowing retrospective environment clearance for projects, the bench of CJI Kant and justice Joymalya Bagchi asked, "Is this writ petition maintainable? What are you challenging?"

"We know the design behind this. Through a writ petition, you want to seek review of the judgment," it remarked. The bench said, "The OM is implementing the Nov 18 judgment. So, in effect you are challenging the judgment. Can you challenge a judgment of the SC through a writ petition? ...If you have a grievance against the judgment, you have a remedy to file a review petition, but you can't file a writ petition challenging a judgment."

# Modi delivers pep talk to local body members from Kerala

Times News Network

PM Narendra Modi interacts with BJP's panchayat, municipal and corporation members from across Kerala in New Delhi on Thursday

**New Delhi:** Ahead of assembly elections in Kerala, PM Narendra Modi delivered a pep talk to party members recently elected to the state's local bodies and asked them to build up its agenda of good governance and deepen its connect with the masses, asserting that voters are fed up with the ruling LDF and main opposition UDF.

Modi said, "It is clear that Kerala is fed up of LDF and UDF and is looking to BJP-NDA with great hope. Therefore, elected members from BJP-NDA will work at the grassroots and address the challenges faced by the people."

Meeting them at his residence, he called the party's performance in the state, including its maiden mayoral win in the prestigious Thiruvananthapuram corporation, historic.

In a post on X, Modi said, "Discussed a wide range of subjects, notably ways to deepen the BJP's connect with the people, further our good governance agenda and further 'Ease of Living.'"

He also recalled BJP's long struggle in the state to emerge as a force and paid tributes to party members who had worked for decades to establish its footprint in Kerala.

"It is due to their selfless efforts that we have grown across the state. In the coming times, the BJP will grow even further in Kerala," he said. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, BJP won its first ever seat in the state and earned nearly 17% of votes (over 19% with allies).

The party is hopeful of making further inroads in the southern state in the coming polls and has drawn comfort from its performance in local bodies' elections, especially in the capital Thiruvananthapuram.

BJP has provided high visibility to the visit by local bodies' members, who arrived here on Wednesday for a three-day administrative and governance skills development programme titled "BJP 4 Viksit Keralam", designed to empower local leaders with first-hand knowledge of national democratic mechanisms.

Being led by Thiruvananthapuram mayor V V Rajesh, they are meeting senior party functionaries.

# Rahul should be expelled from LS, barred from polls: Nishikant

▸ Continued from P 1

> It is now for the Speaker to decide whether to admit Nishikant Dubey's (L) notice, and if he does, then he is likely to order an inquiry before the House finalises its action, which may include Rahul Gandhi's expulsion

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey raised the issue in Lok Sabha as well, igniting massive protests from the opposition benches, and sought action against Rahul Gandhi under Rules 352(5) and 353. "He (Rahul) behaves like an urban Naxal. He targets constitutional institutions like Election Commission, Supreme Court, LS Speaker Om Birla," Dubey alleged, adding, he should be expelled and barred from fighting elections.

While 352(5) covers the "conduct of persons in high authority", understood to be those holding constitutional positions enjoying a certain autonomy and no direct accountability to the govt, 353 refers to ministers and MPs.

The few cases of "substantive motions" being invoked to punish parliamentarians include the expulsion of 11 MPs in 2005 in the "cash-for-query scam". Matters like motion of thanks on the President's address also fall under the motion.

It is now for the Speaker to decide whether to admit Dubey's notice, and if he does, then he is likely to order an inquiry before the House finalises its action, which may include expulsion. The offensive against Gandhi came a day after he accused govt of "compromising" India's interests in the trade agreement with the US.

Dubey alleged that Gandhi does not ask govt to extend his security cover to the visiting countries and his tours are invariably shrouded in mystery, linking this to his association with Ford Foundation and George Soros' foundation, two global institutions accused by BJP of funding campaigns against it.

The BJP MP alleged that Gandhi has become a part of a "thuggery gang" to destabilise India from within. He said this is only tip of the iceberg, accusing the leader of the opposition of using his position to foment public sentiments against institutions and govt.

# India to receive same garment duty benefits as Bangladesh under US trade pact: Goyal

Times News Network

> 'Once our interim agreement is finalised, you will be able to see this clearly in the fine print,' said minister Piyush Goyal

**New Delhi:** India will get concessional duty access for garments made by using American yarn and cotton under its trade agreement with the US, similar to the facility extended to Bangladesh, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

"Just as Bangladesh enjoys a benefit where, if raw materials are purchased from the US, processed into fabric, and then exported, they are subject to zero reciprocal tariffs, India will also receive the same facility," he said. "Once our interim agreement is finalised, you will be able to see this clearly in the fine print," Goyal told reporters. His remarks come amid concerns within sections of the textile industry after Bangladesh secured a 19% reciprocal tariff from the US, along with exemptions for garments made using American cotton and man-made fibre. While India's reciprocal tariff stands at 18%, exporters were closely watching whether Dhaka's additional exemption would give it a pricing edge.

Goyal said the agreement was carefully calibrated.

"Around more than almost all the products grown by Indian farmers, from millets to meat...about 90%-95% of products grown by farmers are out of the US trade deal," he said. "What India needs and what we import even now, and items that will not hurt farmers in India in any way — only those items were opened in a calibrated manner after careful consideration that will ultimately benefit our farmers," he said.

He added that the arrangement would also benefit Indian farmers, as many processed products could find markets in the various nations with which an FTA was signed, such as the US, the EU, Switzerland and Norway.

The minister said that the deal with the US strikes a balance between protecting sensitive sectors and expanding export opportunities, particularly in labour-intensive industries such as textiles and apparel.

Goyal's clarification is expected to allay fears that Indian exporters would be at a disadvantage. Trade research body GTRI had said earlier that even in Bangladesh's case, the benefit may be limited, as it applies only to the value of US-origin raw material, which typically accounts for a fraction of overall garment imports of Bangladesh.

# Joint statement with US basis of mutual understanding: MEA

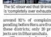
▸ Continued from page 1

The White House fact sheet, issued days after the Indo-US joint statement, highlighted key terms of the agreement, including that India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of US food and agricultural products, which include dried distillers' grains, red sorghum, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, "certain pulses", soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products. The amendments have seen the reference to certain pulses, which wasn't there in the joint statement, being removed from the fact sheet.

"As you are aware, the India-US Joint Statement on the framework for an Interim Agreement on reciprocal and mutually-beneficial trade was issued on 7 February 2026. The Joint Statement is the framework and remains the basis of our mutual understanding in the matter," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. "Both sides will now work towards implementing this framework and finalising the Interim Agreement," he added.

# Buyers not getting any relief: Top court

▸ Continued from page 1



The SC observed that Shimla is 'completely over exhausted'

The bench issued notice on a plea filed by the Himachal Pradesh govt and others challenging an order of the Himachal high court in a matter pertaining to the shifting of the state Rera office from Shimla to Dharamshala. The high court had earlier stayed a June 2025 notification concerning the shifting of the Rera office till further order. Later, in its order on Dec 30, 2025, the high court directed the continuance of the interim order. The top court stayed the HC's Dec 30 direction.

In its petition filed in the apex court through advocate Sugandha Anand, the state said the decision to shift the Himachal Pradesh Rera office from Shimla to Dharamshala was taken to "decongest" Shimla city, and it was purely on administrative considerations. An advocate, appearing for the respondent, said 90% of the projects with which the authority deals are in Shimla, Solan, Parwanoo and Sirmaur, which are within a radius of a maximum of 40km. He said around 92% of complaints pending before Rera are from these districts; only 20 projects are in Dharamshala.

"The people for whom this institution was created, they are completely depressed, disgusted and disappointed. None of them are getting any effective relief. For whom this institution actually is now serving, you will find out when you meet these people," the bench said.

The top court also observed that Shimla is "completely over exhausted".

Issuing notice on the plea, the bench said, "The state is permitted to shift the office of Rera to the place of its choice. However, it shall be subject to the final outcome of the writ petition pending before the high court". PTI

# 200 contacts of duo test negative for Nipah virus

▸ Continued from page 1

None of the 200-odd close contacts of the duo testing positive for the virus. Both worked at Barasat Hospital, around 30km from Kolkata. NIV Pune had confirmed Nipah in their samples on Jan 13. Doctors said that while Nipah does not spread widely like Covid-19, mortality can be as high as 90%.

Despite improvement from Nipah, doctors said she developed secondary infections and other severe systemic complications, including sepsis with septic shock and autonomic dysfunction. In addition to teams at Barasat Hospital, the state health department deputed experts for treatment.

"Due to the progression of her systemic inflammatory condition, multi-organ involvement and sepsis, her condition worsened. She suffered cardiac arrest and was declared dead at 4.30pm on Thursday," said a hospital source.

# *A household name in 1980s, former DD newsreader Sarla Maheshwari no more*

Avijit.Ghosh@timesofindia.com

April 11, 1951 – Feb 12, 2026

**New Delhi:** Sarla Maheshwari, whose clear diction and dignified demeanour made her one of the popular Doordarshan (DD) newsreaders in the 1980s, passed away on Thursday. She was 74.

"She had been ailing for the past two years. A diabetic, she was also on dialysis," her nephew, Neelansh Jariwala, told TOI on phone.

Sarla also taught Hindi in the city's Hansraj College and worked for BBC television.

In the 1980s, the state-run broadcaster was India's lone television channel enjoying a captive audience. Prime time news readers such as JV Raman, Shammi Narang, Neethi Ravindran, Salma Sultan, Rini Simon, Komal GB Singh, among others, were household names. Now when TV news is a synonym for noise and when stridency and hectoring are mistaken for anchoring, many old-timers fondly recall those gentler and genteel times.

Sarla belonged to the same select group of news readers. "Her command and grasp over the Hindi language reflected in the way she read news. Sarla epitomized simplicity and elegance reflecting a graceful Indianness. If today, people remember DD positively and with nostalgia, her personality was significant in shaping that image," says Narang.

Sarla joined DD in 1976. She was Sarla Jariwala then. Her surname derives from the family business of jaris (embroidery of gold and silver threads) in Chandni Chowk where she was born. Working for her PhD on a comparative study of Hindi and Gujarati Literature at Delhi University, she applied for a job in DD. "I was one of the three selected – Ashwini Kaur (Sareen) and Anjali Rai – being the other two," she once recalled in an interview. In the 1980s, all three became popular newsreaders.

In Sept 1984, she married Pawan Maheshwari, a gastroenterologist, then working in England. They first met at a friend's place. He also treated her for an ailment. "Marry me and you'll be okay, I joked," said Pawan at a TV show sometime back. They did.

When the two went back to England, Sarla worked for the BBC. On coming back to India in 1988, she rejoined DD. Soon, like some other DD newsreaders, she developed a strong fan base. Letters poured in not only praising her composure and pronunciation but also the Gujarati saris she wore in a particular style. But it wasn't always praise. Sarla was also threatened by terrorists during the peak of Punjab extremism in the 1980s.

In the summer of 1991, she would read out the news of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, again with her signature restraint. Narang recalled another incident which underlines her proficiency under pressure. In those pre-teleprompter times, he recalled, two newsreaders would read from sheets with their initials written on them. "Once the producer focused on the wrong person. But Sarla was unflustered. She took a brief pause and read the item. Nobody noticed the slip. The incident highlighted her quick thinking. She was a true professional," he said.

# 'Sadhu' gets jail for putting stones on Hyd rail track

Sunny.Baski@timesofindia.com

**Hyderabad:** A railway court recently sentenced a 42-year-old 'sadhu' from Haridwar to two years in jail for deliberately placing stones on tracks at multiple locations along the busy Kachegada route, a major railway hub in Hyderabad — an act that South Central Railway (SCR) officials said could have triggered a major tragedy.

The accused, Ramdas, was booked under sections 153, 174C and 147 of the Railways Act, which pertain to wilful acts endangering the safety of passengers, trespassing and obstruction of railway operations. In its order, the court observed that such acts posed a serious threat to human life and railway property, and had to be dealt with sternly.

RPF officials said this was the highest jail term awarded in SCR for offences involving obstruction of rail tracks. In a majority of such cases, the accused are handed a maximum of three months' imprisonment.

# Coexist, don't cull: RSS chief Bhagwat on stray dog issue

Sarfaraz.Ahmed
@timesofindia.com

**Bhagwat proposed a stronger national role for vets and an independent council of veterinary research on the lines of Indian Council of Agricultural Research**

**Nagpur:** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday called for responsible coexistence amid a national debate on stray dogs and cautioned against extreme viewpoints as he emphasised deep interconnections between human, animal and environmental health.

"The choice is not between killing dogs or endangering human lives. Co-existence is unavoidable. The real issue is how to live together responsibly," Bhagwat said, advocating scientific population control measures, including sterilisation, alongside efforts to minimise risks to people.

Bhagwat was addressing a national symposium at Nagpur Veterinary College, of which he is an alumnus. He pointed out that India's civilisational ethos regards humans, animals, plants and nature as parts of a single ecosystem, a philosophy now echoed globally through the One Health approach.

The RSS chief proposed a stronger national role for veterinarians and an independent Indian Council of Veterinary Research (ICVR) on the lines of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Bhagwat noted that although veterinary institutions have gradually gained autonomy from agricultural universities and Veterinary Council of India (VCI) oversees academic regulation, research funding and innovation still lack a dedicated national structure.

"Sectors advance most effectively when led by domain experts. An independent ICVR would significantly strengthen research, infrastructure and innovation in veterinary science," he said.

Describing environmental protection as one of the world's biggest challenges, Bhagwat stressed that Indian veterinarians have a unique responsibility to offer — a sustainable, Indian model of coexistence. He expressed confidence that deliberations at the Nagpur symposium could one day be seen as a starting point for addressing global One Health and environmental challenges.

# Guj man to his ex-fiancée's dad: I've killed your daughter

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ahmedabad:** "I've killed your daughter," a 23-year-old man told the father of his 17-year-old former fiancée over a chilling phone call, after murdering her late Wednesday. Two days ago, the teen's family had called off the engagement with the "abusive and doubting" accused.

In the call, the accused's voice remained eerily composed as he shared the location of the crime — Kankaria Gate No. 6. He then calmly walked into a police station and turned himself in. Maninagar Police arrested him. The teen's father filed a murder complaint on Thursday. ACP (J Division) N K Vyas said the cancellation of the engagement was the trigger behind the crime, and the accused had allegedly warned the girl's family of "consequences".

According to the FIR, the couple had been engaged for around six months and met frequently.

The teen later told her kin that she no longer wanted the relationship, claiming that her fiancé suspected her, was abusive, and used foul language.

On Monday — the day the engagement was called off — the accused allegedly created a scene at the teen's home.

# 'Md Deepak' faces right-wing outfit's threat, U'khand town on high alert

Kalyan.Das@timesofindia.com

**Dehradun:** Members of a right-wing organisation allegedly tried to reach Uttarakhand's Kotdwar from Dehradun and nearby UP districts Thursday to confront 'Mohammad Deepak' Kumar before being stopped in Rishikesh. After cops briefly detained them at Rishikesh police station, one of them, Lalit Sharma, announced a "reward of Rs 5.5 lakh to anyone who would behead Deepak".

In Kotdwar, Pauri Garhwal police deployed around 150 personnel to "stop any outsiders from entering the city with the intention of disturbing law and order". Meanwhile, Deepak, who claimed his gym membership had dropped from "over 150 to less than 20" after he stood up for an elderly Muslim shopkeeper, has continued to receive support from across the country, including some Supreme Court lawyers.

Pauri Garhwal SSP Sarvesh Panwar said, "Police on Wednesday registered an FIR against Sharma and his organisation member Pinki Chowdhury for threatening Deepak. Heavy police force was deployed at all entry points. There was no breach of peace in Kotdwar."

The latest protest took place after Sharma, in a purported social media video two days ago, threatened to attack Deepak.

# HC: Table report on missing Ratna Bhandar keys in House

**Cuttack:** Orissa high court has directed the state govt to place the Justice Raghubir Dash Commission report on the missing/ misplacement of keys of Puri Jagannath Temple's Ratna Bhandar before the assembly during the budget session, scheduled from Feb 17, **reports Lalmohan Patnaik.**

The court also directed the inventory of ornaments and jewellery to be completed within three months along with the exercise of tallying them with the 1978 benchmark list.

"No complacency can be shown by the state govt," the court cautioned, and posted the matter after three months. The order issued on Jan 27 was uploaded on Thursday. The Justice Raghubir Dash Commission to inquire into the circumstances under which the original keys went missing, had submitted its report to the govt on Nov 29, 2018.

Hearing a PIL filed by Puri resident Dillip Kumar Baral, the two-judge bench of Chief Justice Harish Tandon and Justice M S Raman underlined the Odisha govt "cannot sit idle" after completion of repair and conservation works of the Ratna Bhandar by the Archaeological Survey of India, with valuables reinstated under the supervision of the newly constituted inventory committee.

# Toddler dies as park gate collapses in Hisar

**Hisar:** A two-and-a-half-year-old boy died after the iron gates of a park collapsed on him in Sulkhani village in Haryana's Hisar district Wednesday, **reports Kumar Mukesh.**

Villagers said Josh Pande had accompanied his grandmother to the park when the gate suddenly collapsed on him. Family members and locals took him to a private hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. Residents said the gate was installed around a year ago but its latches and the structure were already in poor condition. They questioned quality of construction and demanded action against officials concerned. No police complaint had been filed till the filing of this report.


मुख्यालय / HEADQUARTERS
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(श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)

स्थापना शाखा-1 (ESTABLISHMENT BRANCH-I)
पंचदीप भवन, सी.आई.जी. मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110002
PANCHDEEP BHAWAN, CIG MARG, NEW DELHI - 110002
Website: www.esic.gov.in

**INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT**

**Subject:** Recruitment to the post of Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical) on deputation basis in ESIC - reg.

ESI Corporation (A Statutory Body established under the ESI Act, 1948) has invited applications for 07 (Seven) vacancy in the cadre of Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical) in Level 10 (Rs. 56100-177500/-) on deputation (including Short-Term Contract) basis for a period not exceeding 3 years:

| S. No. | Name of the Post | Method of Recruitment | Scale of Pay | No. of Posts |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical) | Deputation (including Short-Term Contract) basis | Pay Band-3, Rs. 15600-39100/- + Grade pay Rs. 5400/- [Level-10, Rs. 56100-177500/-] | 07 |

An advertisement containing full details in this regard has been published in the 24-30 Jan, 2026 issue of the Employment News. Those who are interested may go through the issue for details or can log on to ESIC website **www.esic.gov.in/recruitment** at Console no. 11674/2026 dated 12.01.2026 for details and downloading the Bio-data / Curriculum Vitae proforma.

Sd/-
(Ratnesh Kumar Gautam)
Insurance Commissioner (P&A)

K-tech

STARTUP KARNATAKA

**HIRING OF MANPOWER RESOURCES**

The Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), under the Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka, serves as the nodal agency for implementing the Department Policies and spearheading innovation and technology initiatives in the State. KITS invites applications from qualified and eligible candidates for the following position:

**Designation :** Manager – IT **No of Posts:** 01.

**Remuneration (Consolidated) :** Rs.80,000/- **Age Limit:** Less than 40 Years

**Job Profile:** To assist Start-up Cell in various schemes under Start-up Policy such as ELEVATE and other funding schemes and co-ordinating with K- tech Partners and also any other tasks in Start-up cell under the guidance and supervision of General Manager.

**Minimum Qualification & Experience:** Full-time MBA/PGDBM/PGDBA (2 years duration). Minimum 5 years of professional work experience in funding programs with good analytical skills and strong hold on Data handling and Management and knowledge in Start-up ecosystem. Preparing reports, excellent communication skills, strong organizational abilities, problem-solving aptitude. Knowledge about Funding, Documentation, Excellent communication skills (Both Kannada and English).

Scan For Apply

The post is contractual and for a maximum period of 11 months. The details are available at **https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in/217/recruitment/en.** The eligible candidates should apply in the provided link **https://forms.gle/UEZETGhzTSAMASQf6** on or before **27/02/2026 by 5.00 pm.** Interview will be conducted for shortlisted candidates only. The decision of Selection Committee will be final and binding.

Sd/-
Managing Director

**KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)**
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
**BKG Sapphire # 58 Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru – 560020**
Phone: 080-22231007, E-mail: itbt.kitshr@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/5607/AKAR/2025-26

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ
ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ

[illegible]

ಸಂ: [illegible]/03/2025-21/25-26/3832 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.01.2026

**ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

[illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that our client proposes to enter into a joint development agreement to develop [illegible] measuring 100 acres and purchase an extent of land approximately measuring 63 acres, totally measuring about 154 acres 28 guntas comprised in various survey numbers located at Varlagollahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District and land measuring about 5 acres 3 guntas comprised in two survey numbers situated at Alakapura Village, Thondebhavi Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District hereinafter collectively referred to as **'Schedule Property'**, from its present owner [illegible] Limited. [illegible]

Any person(s) having objection(s) to the above-mentioned transaction or any person(s) claiming to have any manner of right, title, interest, claim or demand in relation to or over or under the Schedule Property or any part thereof, may lodge his/her/their statements, objections and/or claims in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned, **within 21 (twenty-one) days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the absence of any genuine and/or rightful objections and/or claims, our client will proceed to finalize and conclude the proposed transaction of purchase of the Schedule Property by way of an outright sale from the present owners, and the claim(s) or objection(s), if any, shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned [illegible] forever.

SCHEDULE

All that lands measuring about **154 acres 28 guntas** comprised in the following survey numbers all located at **Varlagollahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District** and bounded as follows:

| Sl. No | Sy. No | Extent (excluding kharab) Acres | Extent Guntas | Kharab Acres | Kharab Guntas | East | West | North | South |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 30 | 4 | 20 | 1 | 20 | Government mud road | Land bearing Sy.No. 31 | Land bearing Sy.No. 34/3 | [illegible] |
| 2 | 31 | 12 | 27 | 2 | 07 | [illegible] | Land bearing Survey Nos. 32 and 33 | Land bearing Sy.No. 30 | Land bearing Sy.No. 61 |
| 3 | 32 | 11 | 32 | - | - | Land bearing Sy.No. 31 | Land bearing Sy.No. 31 | Land bearing Sy.No. 33 | Land bearing Sy.No. 40 |
| 4 | 33 | 13 | 10 | 0 | 36 | Land bearing Sy.No. 31 | [illegible] | Land bearing Survey Nos. 34/1 and 34/3 | Land bearing Sy.No. 32 |
| 5 | 48 | 44 | 15 | - | - | Land bearing Survey Nos. 35 and 34/1 | [illegible] | [illegible] | Land bearing Sy.No. 34/1 |
| 6 | 49 | 12 | 14 | - | - | Land bearing Sy.No. 48 | Land bearing Sy.No. 50 | Land bearing Sy.No. 35 | Land bearing Sy.No. 56 |
| 7 | 50 | 10 | 13 | - | - | Land bearing Survey Nos. 48 and 33 | Land bearing Sy.No. 50 | Land bearing Sy.No. 49 | Land bearing Sy.No. 51 |
| 8 | 51 | 20 | 22 | - | - | Land bearing Sy.No. 52 | Land bearing Sy.No. 53 | Land bearing Sy.No. 50 | Land bearing Sy.No. 59 |
| 9 | 52 | 12 | 15 | - | - | Land bearing Sy.No. 51 | State Highway 58 | Land bearing Sy.No. 53 | Land bearing Sy.No. 54 |
| 10 | 53 | 9 | 27 | - | - | Land bearing Sy.No. 49 | State Highway 58 | Land bearing Sy.No. 54 | Land bearing Sy.No. 52 |
| 11 | 54 | 8 | 13 | - | - | Land bearing Sy.No. 49 | Land bearing Sy.No. 53 | [illegible] | Land bearing Sy.No. 59 |
| 12 | 55 | 1 | 22 | - | - | Land bearing Sy.No. 48 | [illegible] | Land bearing Sy.No. 47 | Land bearing Sy.No. 40 |
| 13 | [illegible] | 3 | 21 | - | - | State Highway 58 | Land bearing Sy.No. 49 | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 14 | [illegible] | 4 | 10 | - | - | State Highway 58 | Land bearing Sy.No. 49 | Land bearing Sy.No. [illegible] | [illegible] |
| TOTAL | | 154 | 28 | 8 | 18 | | | | |

All that lands measuring about 5 acres 3 guntas comprised in the following survey numbers all located at **Alakapura Village, Thondebhavi Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District** and bounded as follows:

| Sl. No | Sy. No | Extent (excluding kharab) Acres | Extent Guntas | Kharab Acres | Kharab Guntas | East | West | North | South |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 60 | 4 | 23 | - | - | [illegible] | Land bearing Sy.No. 60 | Land bearing Sy.No. 34 | [illegible] |
| 2 | 67 | 0 | 20 | - | - | [illegible] | [illegible] | Pennar River | [illegible] |
| TOTAL | | | 35 | 2 | 48 | | | | |

Date: 13.02.2026
Place: Bengaluru

For [illegible]
[illegible], Partner
[illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that our client intends to acquire the property described in the Schedule below ("Schedule Property"), owned by [illegible] Private Limited, having its registered office at No. 14, [illegible] ("Owner"). The Owner has represented that it is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Property and has unencumbered rights of alienation over the same.

Any person, including any individuals, corporate bodies, partnership firms, banks, financial institutions, other lenders and government bodies, having any manner of right, title, interest, claim, benefit or demand in the Schedule Property or any portion thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, charge, lien, possession, maintenance, attachment, exchange, gift or in any other manner, is hereby called upon to intimate their objection and/or claim in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at the address mentioned below within fifteen (15) days from the date of this notice. If no such objection or claim is received, it would be deemed that no person, except the Owner, has any right, interest or claim in or in relation to the Schedule Property and all rights, interests or claims, if any, which are not notified as stated above shall be deemed as waived.

SCHEDULE

The immovable property being Plot No. 30 bearing E-PID No. [illegible] measuring [illegible] situated at Doddanekundi II Phase Industrial Area, [illegible] Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, and bounded as follows:

East by : Private land; West by : [illegible] Road
North by : Plot No. [illegible]; South by : Plot No. [illegible]

Signed/-
R Vasudev / B S Raghavi
Magnah Law Partners
No. [illegible], Bengaluru - [illegible]. Phone No. [illegible]
Email ID: [illegible]

Bengaluru
Date: 13.02.2026

iftas

A Reserve Bank of India Subsidiary

**Request for Proposal (RFP)**
Empanelment of Network Service Providers of Internet, Leased Line & MPLS links for IFTAS Cloud

IFTAS, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), that designs, deploys & provides the essential IT-related services, required by the Reserve Bank of India, banks, and financial institutions.

**Bids are invited from qualified Network System Providers for competitive technical and commercial proposals for Empanelment of dedicated Internet, Leased Line & MPLS links for IFTAS Cloud (India's Financial Sovereign Cloud) across multiple locations in India.**

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**Interested Bidders to check our website for further details**

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Email: **rfp@iftas.in**

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
[illegible]
ईमेल: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor, Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK –6
PUBLIC NOTICE

*[Pursuant to sub-section (1) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]*

*Public Notice No.ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/[illegible]/2025-26/[illegible]* Date: 04/02/2026

**Reference:**

In the matter of striking off the names of [illegible] companies in the state of Karnataka under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 as reported.

| S.No. | Work Item | CIN | Company Name |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 2 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 3 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 4 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 5 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 6 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 7 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 8 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 9 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 10 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] PRIVATE LIMITED |
| 11 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 12 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 13 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 14 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 15 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 16 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 17 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 18 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 19 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 20 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 21 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 22 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 23 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 24 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies has received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name(s) from the register of companies [illegible]

3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off of name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Ishan Tickoo
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123/11/0685/2526

## CONTRAPUNTO

The salesman knows nothing of what he is selling, save that he is charging a great deal too much for it

- OSCAR WILDE

# Right Call, RBI

*Banks shouldn't be growing bottom line by misguiding customers. New directive will hopefully stop it*

Why does walking into a bank so often feel faintly unsettling? In the pre-digital age, queues were deterrent enough. This century made things worse. Instead of clerks behind ledgers, you now face staff tethered to screens — and to sales targets — urging you to buy ULIPs and insurance policies you neither need nor fully understand.

The damage has been real. According to a 2023 S&P survey, only 27% of Indian adults are financially literate. That leaves millions vulnerable to products ill-suited to their age, income or risk appetite. Thousands of crores have flowed into such schemes. Banks, meanwhile, have prospered. In 2023-24 alone, India's top 15 banks earned ₹21,773 crore in commission from selling insurance and similar products.

It has taken govt and RBI years to acknowledge a simple truth: what boosts bank profits may erode customer welfare. RBI's latest directive against mis-selling — effective July — is therefore overdue and welcome.

For the first time, it offers a clear definition. If a bank pushes a product unsuitable to a customer's profile — life insurance to an 80-year-old, for instance — it is guilty of mis-selling. A signed consent form will not shield it. Where mis-selling is established, a full refund must follow.

This clarity is essential not just because financial literacy is low, but because the power imbalance is stark. Banks routinely bundle life insurance with home loans. In rural areas, 62% of customers report being "bullied" into buying add-on products when taking small loans. Yet the problem runs deeper than overzealous branch staff. At its core lies institutional greed, expressed through punishing sales targets. In a 2024 survey, 57% of bank relationship managers admitted they were under pressure to mis-sell. Pressure aside, when 98% reportedly could not distinguish between nominal and real returns, they had little business presenting themselves as financial advisers.

Sales pressure is not uniquely Indian. In 2016, Wells Fargo — one of America's Big Four banks — was fined $185mn for opening 1.5mn deposit accounts and 565,000 credit card accounts without customer consent, then charging fees on them. Earlier, staff had reported targets of opening 20 accounts a day. The scandal led to the dismissal of over 5,000 employees. That episode offers a cautionary note. In India, too, relationship managers could easily become scapegoats when mis-selling surfaces. If RBI is serious about reform, it must look beyond individual misconduct to incentive structures that breed it. Banks are custodians of public trust and public money. They would do well to remember that — and focus on that job.

# This Might Be Artful

*Ireland will help artists by giving them a basic income. But state-studio relationship is complicated*

It's not only the stock market where the domestic investor has raised her game in recent years. The art world, too, is witnessing a surge of conviction. Metros are buzzing with back-to-back exhibitions and auctions. Vibrant art spaces are also flourishing in Ahmedabad, Jodhpur, Hyderabad, Pune, Jaipur and beyond. What's especially heartening is the demographic shift. Young people – even children – turn up for curatorial walks. A new generation of collectors is injecting vitality into the contemporary segment. Perhaps the more the world feels ablaze, the more we gravitate towards meaning, refuge and reimagination through creative acts. But that instinct raises a pressing question: how do we protect creativity itself at a moment when AI is unsettling long-standing artistic and market relationships?

Ireland has offered one answer. Its Basic Income for the Arts initiative – closely watched across the world – provides govt support to 2,000 randomly selected, eligible artists, allowing them to spend "more time creating and less time trapped in unrelated jobs just to survive." The principle isn't novel. The history of art – with a capital A – is inseparable from patronage. Without Akbar's imperial atelier, Mughal miniature painting may not have flourished. Without powerful patrons, Michelangelo might never have painted the Sistine Chapel, nor da Vinci the Mona Lisa.

Govts today continue to shape cultural ecosystems – funding art universities, museums, public installations and other institutions. Yet there is good reason to prefer an arm's-length relationship between state and studio rather than a suffocating embrace. Consider why the phrase "Trump Kennedy Center" jars. Remember that van Gogh sold just one painting in his lifetime. Recall how elite patrons in Amrita Sher-Gil's time dismissed her work. That there is popular support for Ireland's experiment suggests the public values art. That so many masters were uncelebrated in their own time reminds us that artistic excellence rarely tracks immediate popularity. What endures is not always what sells – but what questions, resists and redefines.

# A is for Appum

*Edible alphabet of the great bread basket that's India*

**Jug Suraiya**

When I'm in Goa, as I was recently, I'm faced with a Hamletesque dilemma: To poee, or not to poee; that is the question.

The poee is a traditional Goan bread of wheat flour and bran with a chewy elasticity of texture and a hollow pocket inside to stuff in whatever savoury or sweet filling you fancy.

I love poees. The trouble is that I can't make up my mind if I love the undo (oon-doh) as much or even more. The undo has a crackly crust that conceals a butter soft interior, and is perfect for mopping up the rich gravy of a xacuti or caldin. Goa's bakers, called Poders, also make the pao, the spongy bun Mumbaikars have hijacked to create the streetside staple of Vada Pav, using the bread to sandwich an aloo vada.

Deliberating on the delectable rivalry between the poee, the undo and the pao, I marvel at how fortunate we are in India to have such a plentiful and varied basket of bread, an enticing alphabet of the edible.

A is for Appum, that perfect combo of an idli and a dosa, ideal for people who can't make up their minds as to which of these two Udupi menu items they prefer;

**jugular***vein*

B is for Bhatura, all puffed up with justifiable self-importance and the ideal companion to chhole. C is for the ubiquitous Chapati, and D for the aforementioned Dosa of which there are reportedly no less than 101 fillings.

Skipping a few letters, we come to H for Handvo, a scrumptiously thick dal pancake from Kutch served hot with chilled dahi. Yum doesn't get yummier.

K is for Kulcha, serious challenger to the Bhatura as the significant other for chhole. L is for the Bengali Luchi, which partners perfectly with Alur Dom. M is for the Gujarati Muthiya which, baked and crisp-fried, makes for a lovely snack.

P is for Puran Poli, Maharashtra's sweet flatbread, R for the enormous Radhabollobi, as large and imposing as its name, T for Gujarat's Thepla, eaten with nimbu nob achaar, and U for Uttapam.

It's said a civilisation is gauged by the bread it produces. By this token we Indians are a pretty civilised and well-bread lot.

# Bash All Day, Buy All Night

*Why do foreigners, including Indians, who are critiquing US govt, keep pouring money into America? Much of it has to do with AI. And Americans' spending habits now rely heavily on sentiment of strangers*

**Ruchir Sharma**

When it comes to US, investors the world over now love to 'Bash All Day, Buy All Night'. Travelling recently across Asia, Europe and West Asia, I was struck by the rising intensity of complaints about America under Trump, from its tariffs to designs on Greenland and apparent disregard for the old global order. Polls show the same erosion, with favourable opinions of US plummeting worldwide.

Then I got back to New York, looked at the numbers and saw that, even as opinions of US plunge, the money is flowing in like never before. Last year foreigners poured around $1.6tn into US financial assets, including nearly $700bn into stocks, both new records and significantly higher than the levels of recent years. The story is much the same for US corporate bonds, with foreign purchases up sharply.

But for a brief 'Sell America' wave last April, foreigners were big buyers in every month of 2025. They were aggressively "buying the dip," just like US retail traders. From Singapore to Seoul, they are staying up all night to trade on increasingly popular after-hours US trading platforms.

Among the few foreigners sitting out this buying spree were central banks, which have been moving money from the dollar into gold. And the one new hint of caution in 2025 was that global investors were hedging more of their unprecedentedly large dollar exposure than in the year before. Foreign institutions alone now own nearly 15% of US stocks, a record share and up by half from the level a decade ago.

So why would people buy so heavily in a country they profess to increasingly despise? One reason is inertia. Until recently, US had steadily outperformed the rest of the world since the global financial crisis of 2008, so many investors are still chasing past performance. They have come to assume that 'There Is No Alternative' to investing in the US markets, given their vast scale and liquidity.

The rest of the world also remains in awe of the US lead in technology. While Europeans have long been perhaps the most enthusiastic buyers of American tech stocks, remarkably the single biggest source of foreign flows into the US stock market last year was South Korea, where the rage for assets tied to America or AI is acute.

India is deep in the grip of this trend too. In 2025 Indians spent less than they had the year before on just about every category of overseas purchases — travel, study, gifts — except for portfolio investments, which rose more than 60%. Looser govt caps have enabled Indians to buy financial assets abroad, and a whopping 99% share of these investments are flowing to US. A big chunk goes into US exchange traded funds, but the biggest share goes to individual US stocks — led by the big tech names that are at the heart of AI mania.

Market trends don't last forever and the 'Bash All Day, Buy All Night' habit is not likely to be different. The mania for AI stocks in US is raising existential questions, since it's not clear which companies will win the AI arms race, or that they will be American. China has shown it can compete, with some of its AI models offering similar performance, at cheaper training costs.

If the AI mania fades, American assets could be hit hardest. More than half of US economic growth last year can be explained by the billions US firms are investing in AI infrastructure, and the waves of capital flowing into US financial assets.

Meanwhile, in response to America's market dominance and unpredictability, other govts are looking to diversify their risk. They are cutting bilateral trade deals, deregulating and investing more in defence and local technology. Despite the heavy capital flows into US last year, markets in the rest of the world outperformed US by wide margins.

The momentum is building as growth picks up outside US. This year and next, economies in the rest of the world are expected to grow at one and a half times the pace of US, widening this gap compared with recent years. And through 2027, average or 'equal' weighted corporate earnings are set to grow twice as fast in emerging markets, and 50% faster in other developed markets.

America's spending habits rest more than ever on the sentiment of strangers. Last year, foreign portfolio inflows were large enough to finance the entire US current account deficit — and then some. The last time this happened was in the mid-2000s, when US markets were not as big and neither was the deficit. The scale of US dependence on speculative foreign capital has never been so high.

Notwithstanding all the America bashing, foreigners now own nearly $70tn in US assets, double the level a decade ago. And in the last year, most of those flows arrived as 'hot money'. Foreign direct investment in factories and businesses, which cannot withdraw quickly, was much weaker than portfolio flows into assets such as stocks and bonds, which can reverse in an instant. If the world cuts back on buying America all night long, the impact could dramatically shock US markets.

# Speaker's Not The Issue, Not Speaking To Each Other Is

**Parliamentary jousts are so bitter & disruptive because of treasury, oppn leaderships' mutual personal dislike. BJP, as governing party, must take the lead in reaching out**

**R Jagannathan**

In what can only be termed as most unfortunate, Congress-led opposition's move to remove Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla marks a new low in trust between govt and rival political parties. The no-trust move, signed by 119 MPs, excludes Trinamool.

It signals a new and more bitter phase in political confrontation that cannot but be detrimental to the country's interests. The global climate for India's growth and security has worsened. It follows that both govt and opposition must seek consensus rather than conflict.

It is difficult to believe the chaos and disruptions at the start of every Parliament session has been about real issues. If not about SIR, then it's about an unpublished book by former army chief Navarane. One wonders why Speaker's refusal to allow Gandhi to make a reference to what is allegedly said in the book somehow constitutes favouritism. It is equally problematic if govt thinks discussing what is written in an unpublished book is somehow so dangerous that it can sacrifice an entire Parliament session over it. People who've read the manuscript say there is nothing so damaging to govt's reputation as Gandhi would have us believe.

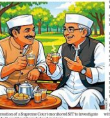
Also, one wonders how the Speaker arrived at the conclusion that Congress's women MPs may have been planning something "untoward" vis-a-vis PM, though certainly, he's entitled to his opinion.

Whatever the provocation for the no-confidence move against Speaker, what's certain is that it has little to do with his actual conduct or alleged open support for govt. It is something more visceral and personal between PM and Gandhi.

Gandhi has repeatedly attacked PM – on China, US trade deal, business cronies, so on and so forth. It's improbable that only real issues are at stake here. In fact, history shows why this may be personal. In his first Parliament speech in 2015 after Modi became PM, Gandhi accused govt of being a "suit-boot-ki-sarkar".

There is little doubt Modi took this personally, since he was trying to move BJP to the Centre-Left position by focusing on the poor ("*vanchit, peedit, soshit*") in contrast to party's earlier position of being Right of Centre.

The personal element however goes back to the UPA era, when every effort was made to put the then Gujarat CM in the dock. Among other things, Modi and Gujarat were targeted not only for failing to contain the post-Godhra riots, but actually being complicit in it. Denial of a US visa for Modi, the Ishrat Jehan "fake encounter" case,



creation of a Supreme Court monitored SIT to investigate Modi could not have helped matters.

On the other side, Congress and opposition believe the various cases started by anti-corruption agencies, from tax authorities to ED, target the opposition, including Congress's dynastic heads as in the *National Herald* case. Most observers have pointed out that BJP or NDA politicians have hardly ever been in their crosshairs.

Whenever he speaks as LoP in Parliament, Gandhi has targeted Modi, and the latter, in his replies, has targeted the Gandhi scion. BJP's vocal MPs have only added fuel to the fire by personally attacking the Gandhis. The frequent references to Nehruvian blunders are often used to emphasise the culpability of the Nehru-Gandhi family for mistakes decades old. There is no need for this. All PMs and political parties make mistakes and Congress does not take kindly to its first family being targeted for problems that persist today.

The takeaway from this history is that the dislike of the heads of govt and opposition for each other has less to do with genuine political differences, and more with ego-clashes and personal pique.

India cannot afford this feud to continue if it is to navigate the treacherous waters of international and internal threats to its security and economic progress. Eco Survey called for an "all-of-society" approach to tackle challenges India faces, including the need for reforms in agriculture and manufacturing, all of which will need states and local govts to play their part. This cannot happen without both govt and opposition being willing to cooperate.

The first move to repair the mistrust must come from govt. It would help if Modi calls Gandhi for a meeting over tea, and main opposition leaders in a later meeting, to break the political logjam in Parliament and outside. Speaker's conduct is only a tangential issue — most Speakers tend to give govt more leeway than the opposition, across legislatures.

This is not an issue that can be sorted out by allowing lower-level ministers to deal with the opposition. PM must initiate the process, even if the details of deals with the opposition are left to others to sort out.

The country faces too many challenges to let political egos and personality clashes come in the way of a consensual approach to challenges. India cannot afford this deep political fracture at this time in its evolution from a minor power to midi power over the next decade or more.

This is the time for statesmanship, not brinkmanship and extreme personalisation of politics.

## Calvin & Hobbes

## Sacred*space*

*Mind is consciousness which has put on limitations. You are originally unlimited and perfect. Later you take on limitations and become the mind.*

**Ramana Maharshi**

# Why Political Left Or Right Are Exclusionary

**Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev**

We are witnessing a resurgence of right-wing movements worldwide. Many believe this is a natural consequence of left wing having overplayed its hand in previous decades. The result? An oscillation from one political extreme to another.

In past, many felt they had made an intelligent and empowering choice when they moved left, away from stifling sectarian orthodoxies and superstitions. Liberal left-wing ideologies can certainly satisfy intellect and conscience with their emphasis on justice, equality and change. However, life can feel barren, and human brilliance and vitality throttled by a rigid and mechanical approach to human welfare. Movement to extreme right is not an answer either: after a while, people will struggle when conservatism stifles capacity for independent thought. And so, political affiliation swings like a pendulum between left and right.

Ironically, each side believes it is more liberal than the other. Both extremes, however, often turn authoritarian and exclusionary. One can uncritically endorse hierarchy and tradition, while the other can endorse its own brand of ideological dogmatism. Absolutism of any kind is never the answer to the human quest for well-being and freedom.

Real liberalism means holding space for multiple points of view. Most people's minds are so hijacked by self-righteous ideas of right and wrong that they have lost the ability to listen to conflicting perspectives. What we often see around us is mere prejudice disguised as independent opinion.

Shankaran Pillai's little grandson wanted to show him his archery skills. He took him to the barn and showed him eleven targets. He had hit them all — bullseye, dead-centre. Shankaran Pillai was amazed. He asked the boy from what distance he shot. "70 metres," the boy replied. Shankaran Pillai was overjoyed. He congratulated himself on his superior DNA and started dreaming of Olympic gold medals for his gifted grandson. He asked the boy how he had attained such expertise. "Simple," said the grandson. "First I shoot, then I paint the target."

THE SPEAKING TREE

That's what most people are doing with their lives. They have already fixed their lives, religiously, ideologically, socially, culturally, nationally. The arrow is stuck; they simply paint the target around it. This is not liberalism. This is habit, rigidity and compulsion masquerading as freedom.

In next few decades, human intellect will fire like never before. Right now, almost 29% of the people in US write 'no religion' in their application forms. In UK, more than 37% do the same. In the next 30 years, 60% of the world will follow suit.

But will they be free of questions? Will they be free of the thirst to know? Will they be free of the need to identify with something? No. And still, their thirst cannot be addressed by narrow religious or political identities. Belonging to camps of any kind will never be the answer. The only solution for a fast-changing world is to raise human consciousness.

The way ahead is not turning right or left, but *within*. Unchecked freedom is anarchy. Enforced freedom is absolutism. But when human consciousness rises, every individual determines their own truth without conflicting with anyone else. This spiritual culture has long encouraged the freedom to question, worship multiple gods, or none at all, within the same household. It is time to stop confusing liberalism with allegiance to politics of left or right. It takes two wings to fly.

## BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager 2 (BSWML), 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560 052.

No. DGM-2/(BSWML)/Corr- 01/2025-26 Date: 12.02.2026

### CORRIGENDUM- 1

**Sub:** Extension of Calendar of Events for Tender Notification.

**Ref:** This office Tender Notification No. DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/26/2025-26, Dated: 09.02.2026.

As per the above subject and reference, the calendar of events for the above tender notification is extended due to Administrative and Technical reasons.

**Time schedule /calendar of events**

| Sl. No. | | As per tender notification | Extended dates please read as |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pre bid meeting | On 16.02.2026 at 15:00 hrs. | On 21.02.2026 at 15:00 hrs. |
| 2 | Last date and time for uploading qualification documents | On 25.02.2026 up-to 16:00 hrs. | On 06.03.2026 up to 16:00 hrs. |
| 3 | Opening of tender date and time | On 26.02.2026 at 16:30 hrs. | On 07.03.2026 at 16:30 hrs. |

For Further details visit GOK kpp portal Website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2
BSWML

DIPR/CP/5608/AKAR/2025-26

## Government of Karnataka
## Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department
Room No.8, Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru-560001.
Tel.: 080-22034069/70, e-mail: director.iddd@gmail.com

No.:IDD/5/ITS/2026 Dated: 12.02.2026

### NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR EMPANELMENT (RFE) OF TRANSACTION ADVISERS (TA)

Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department (IDP&IWTD), Government of Karnataka (GoK) proposes to empanel Transaction Advisers (TAs) to provide TA services required from various Departments / Agencies of GoK in implementation of Infrastructure Projects under PPP mode:

| No. | Name of the Services | Tender Number |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Empanelment of Transaction Advisers for implementation of Infrastructure Projects under PPP mode | Tender Number: IDD/2025-26/PREQUAL_TENDER_NUMBER_48 |

RFE is invited from experienced Consultancy Organizations for empanelment as TA. RFE Tender documents may be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from13.02.2026 onwards.

Sd/-
Senior Programmer,
PPP Cell, IDP&IWTD,
Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/DD-C.P/5604/KSMCA/2025-26

## नाईब NIBE
सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह राष्ट्रीय जैव ऊर्जा संस्थान
Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Bioenergy

(File No. 348-21/27/2025-ADMIN dated 25.01.2026)

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

**Jaiv Urja Mitra Skill Development Programme**

SSS-NIBE, Kapurthala invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible organizations/institutions for empanelment of Training Centres (TCs) to conduct training under the Jaiv Urja Mitra Skill Development Programme.

The empanelment shall be for one year, extendable subject to performance and continuation of the programme.

Last date for online submission: 21.02.2026 (up to 5:30 PM)

Detailed EOI and eligibility criteria are available on MNRE and SSS-NIBE websites.

Sd/-
Director General
SSS-NIBE, Kapurthala

## GUJARAT STATE ELECTRICITY CORPORATION LTD.
Vidyut Bhavan, Race Course, Vadodara, India - 390007.
Ph. 91-265-6612131, Fax: 91-265-2340565
CIN: U40100GJ1993SGC019988
e-mail: gmf.gsecl@gebmail.com Website: www.gsecl.in

General Manager (F&A), Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited, Vadodara invites Tender as mentioned below.

Tender Ref. No. GSECL/Insu. cell/Renewable/2026-27/106 Dt. 05-02-2026 for Renewal of Various Renewable Energy Assets for IAR, Standard Fire and Special Peril Insurance and Burglary policy for the period from 01st April, 2026 to 31st March, 2027.

Tender Ref. No. GSECL/Insu. cell/Boiler/2026-27/115 Dt. 05-02-2026 for Renewal of Boiler Explosion Policy for the period from 01st April, 2026 to 31st March, 2027.

Tender Ref. No. GSECL/Insu. cell/PLI/2026-27/111 Dt. 05-02-2026 for Renewal of Public Liability Act Insurance Policy for the period from 01st April, 2026 to 31st March, 2027.

Tender Ref. No. GSECL/Insu. cell/Cash in Transit/2026-27/114 Dt. 05-02-2026 for Renewal of Cash in Transit & Cash in Safe Insurance Policy for the period from 01st April, 2026 to 31st March, 2027.

Tender Ref. No. GSECL/Insu. cell/Import Transit/2026-27/113 Dt. 05-02-2026 for Renewal of Import Transit Insurance under open declaration for import of Spares for the period from 01st April, 2026 to 31st March, 2027.

Tender Ref. No. GSECL/Insu. cell/Inland Transit/2026-27/110 Dt. 05-02-2026 for Renewal of Inland Transit Insurance for the period from 01st April, 2026 to 31st March, 2027.

Tender Ref. No. GSECL/Insu. cell/SAT/2026-27/112 Dt. 05-02-2026 for Renewal of Stand Alone Terrorism Insurance for the period from 01st April, 2026 to 31st March, 2027.

The Tender documents are available on website www.gsecl.in/Tenders/View Tenders (for view and download only).

Interested Vendors may surf the above website and may download the said Tender from our Website. Any physical submission of your Tender before due date & time.

Note: -Pre tender with our Web Site till bid opening.

-Sd- General Manager (F&A), Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited

## Public Works Department,
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Bengaluru Division, 2nd Floor,
PWD Annexure Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001
Ph: 080-22133370, website: www.kpwd.karnataka.gov.in

**Short Tender Notification No. 55/2025-26 Date: 11.02.2026**

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, **No. 1 South & Doddaballapura Sub Division** under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP.

Tender Notification is Published for **03 works (Rs. 8.00 Lakhs to Rs. 500.00 Lakhs)**. Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP Portal.**

1. Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal **on or before 4.00 PM on 20.02.2026.**
2. The opening of tenders through KPP Portal on **21.02.2026 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be intimated.

**For more details contact this office.**

DIPR/DD-CP/5603/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

## भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
मासंप्रवि-केंद्रीय स्थापना अनुभाग
बेंगलूरु - 560001

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, बेंगलूरु के मुख्य कार्यालय परिसर और बेंगलूरु में बैंक की कॉलोनियों के औषधालयों में दवाओं की आपूर्ति

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, बेंगलूरु शहर के विभिन्न स्थानों पर अपने औषधालयों में दवाओं की आपूर्ति के लिए पात्र आपूर्तिकर्ताओं / स्टॉकिस्टों / दवा-विक्रेताओं से ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित करता है। निविदा प्रपत्र, विस्तृत नियम और शर्तें दर-सूची के लिए अनुरोध (आरएफक्यू) दस्तावेज़ में उपलब्ध हैं जिन्हें रिज़र्व बैंक की वेबसाइट www.rbi.org.in के निविदा अनुभाग से दिनांक फरवरी 13, 2026 से डाउनलोड किया/देखा जा सकता है।

निविदा में भाग लेने के लिए आवेदन, निर्धारित प्रारूप में पात्रता मानदंड और मूल्य बोलियों के समर्थन में दस्तावेज एमएसटीसी ई-पोर्टल (वर्शन-3-सामान्य पोर्टल) https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocn पर अपलोड किए जाने चाहिए।

दिनांक : 13.02.2026

क्षेत्रीय निदेशक
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, बेंगलूरु

## TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (e-Tender cum Reverse Auction (E-RA) Notice)-(International Competitive Bidding)

| Specification No. | Tender Inviting Authority | Name of the Work |
|---|---|---|
| T.2363 | CE / Transmission | Design, detailed engineering, supply, erection, testing & commissioning and establishment of (i) Kavathampalayam 765/400 KV AIS SS along with 765 KV & 400 KV Transmission Lines and (ii) Edayarpalayam 400/230 110 KV AIS Substation for Development of Inter-State Transmission System under tariff based competitive bidding process (TBCB) in Coimbatore Region under TBCB mode on International competitive bidding basis through the e-tendering. |

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders please visit websites: www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR/976/Tender/2026

## Reserve Bank of India
HRMD-Central Establishment Section
Bengaluru - 560001

**Supply of Medicines at Reserve Bank of India Bengaluru's dispensaries in Main office premises and Bank's colonies in Bengaluru**

Reserve Bank of India, Bengaluru invites e-tenders from eligible suppliers / stockists / chemists for supply of medicines to its dispensaries at various locations in the city. Tender forms, detailed terms and conditions are available in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) document which can be downloaded/viewed from the Tenders Section of the Reserve Bank's website www.rbi.org.in from February 13, 2026.

Applications for participating in the tender process, documents in support of eligibility criteria and Price bids in the prescribed format should be uploaded in MSTC e-portal (Version-3-common portal) at https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocn

Date: 13.02.2026

Regional Director
Reserve Bank of India, Bengaluru

## KARNATAKA SLUM DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Office of the Executive Engineer, KSDB, Division, Belagavi.
Plot No. C-1, Housing Board Colony, Tachers Colony, Hindalga, Belagavi.
Ph & Fax No : (0831) 2442294 E-mail: ksdb.bgmdiv@gmail.com

No.KSDB/EE/BGM/DVN/TN/2025-26/946 Date: 10-02-2026

**"SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION " – KW-4**
**Two Cover System (KPP Portal Only)**

On behalf of the Commissioner, Karnataka Slum Development Board, Bengaluru The Executive Engineer, Karnataka Slum Development Board, Division Belagavi Invites Item rate tenders from eligible bidders for Providing Basic Amenities for **PMAY-HFA** Scheme **506 G+2** Houses Layout in Mundagod Town of Uttar Kannada District (Total 02 Works) under Head of Account: **5475-00-115-0-05.**

The Maximum approximate value of work is **Rs. 387.81** Lakhs and Minimum approximate value of work is **Rs. 388.84** Lakhs and other details available in the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

**Calendar of Events :**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Date & Time for Pre bid meeting | 18-02-2026 at 11.00 am |
| 2. | Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications | 24-02-2026 upto 5.30 pm |
| 3. | Last Date & time for tender Submission | 25-02-2026 upto 4.30 pm |
| 4. | Date & time for opening of Technical Bid | 26-02-2026 at 5.00 pm |
| 5. | Date & time for opening of Financial Bid | Will be intimated to qualified bidders |

Sd/ Executive Engineer
K.S.D.B. Division, Belagavi.

## UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

No. 2691/UCADA/2026 Date: 12/02/2026

### ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from Indian nationals with full particulars for the following Post on Contract Basis in the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority, (UCADA) Government of Uttarakhand:-

| S.No. | Post Name | Vacancy | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | SKA B-200 Aircraft Sr. AME (Cat-B1) | 01 | On Contract Basis |

Application should reach UCADA, through E-mail **ucadadoon@gmail.com** till **5:00 PM of 25-02-2026.**

The relevant details are available on our website **www.ucada.in**

**CEO, UCADA**

## Mangalore SEZ Limited
Mangalore Special Economic Zone, Sy.No. 158 3A, Plot No. L1 Administrative Building, Bajpe Village, Mangalore - 574 142 Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

12.02.2026

Mangalore SEZ Limited (MSEZL) invites tenders from eligible bidders for the following work through e-tendering:

| S No. | Contract Package No | Name of Work | Proposal due date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | MSEZL/O&M/POWER/ 2025 | "A) Operation & Maintenance of Grid Sub Station & Power Supply System in MSEZ including supply of spares; and B) Operation & Maintenance of Street Lighting System in MSEZ" | 07.03.2026 |

Please refer website www.tenderwizard.com/MSEZ and www.mangaloresez.com for further details.

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer
Mangalore SEZ Ltd, Mangalore

## कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
## सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-भरतपुर

क्रमांक: एसीई/भी.पी.सी/निविदा/2025-26/डी-2200 दिनांक 02/02/2026

निविदा सूचना संख्या: 20/2025-26

[illegible]

NIB No. PWD2526A0401
UBN No. PWD2526WLOB22242

अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, भरतपुर

DIPR/C/2474/2026

## NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender No. PRYJ-Sig-229-2025-26 Date- 09.02.2026

### E-Tender Notice

**Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer /Coordination/North Central Railway/Prayagraj** for and on behalf of the President of India invite E-TENDER on prescribed form for the following works up to 12:00 hrs. The details of the Tender is as under :-

**SN. 1. Tender No. PRYJ-Sig-229-2025-26**

**Name of work:** Provision of Interlocking of 05 nos. mid-sect on non interlocked LC Gates in (P.HW-R/NCL) section under Prayagraj division.

| | |
|---|---|
| Approx. cost of work: ₹ 28006000.40/ | Bid Security: ₹ 290000/- |
| Completion Period: 12 Months | Date of Opening of tender: 09.03.26 |

**2. Availability of tender form:** Tender forms shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in. **3. Time date & place of opening of tender:** tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj on or after the determined date at 12.30 hours.

313/26 FA

northcentralrailway @CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

## अजमेर विकास प्राधिकरण, अजमेर

E-TENDER - 53 & 54/2025-26

Bids for various work amounting Rs. 3790.65 Lacs are invited from interested bidders for upto 05.03.2026, 6:00 pm. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on procurement portal (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) & (http://sppp.raj.nic.in) http://www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/ada departmental website.

NIT 53 - UBN : AJD2526WLOB00256, SLOB00257, WSOB00258-59,
NIT 54 - AJD2526WSOB00254 - 55

## Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.
D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005

### CORRIGENDUM / ADDENDUM

Bid for item:
1. Deep Freezer, Fowler Bed, Steel Bed, Foot Step, Syringe Infusion Pump, Glucostrip & Pulse Oxymeter (Handheld).
2. White Box (Sharp Container), & Transport Trolley (Wheel Barrow) Reserve for MSE Rajasthan Only

are invited from interested bidders up to Date: 12-03-2026 : 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or www.dipronline.org or https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or website http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in.

UBN : MSC2526GLOB00036

Executive Director (EPM)
Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation

## Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat Shivamogga
## Office of The Executive Engineer,
## Panchayat Raj Engineering Divison, Sagara.

No. EE/PRE/SD/SSS.Sagara/KW-1&2&3/AE/JE/2025-26/
Date: 09.02.2026

**Tender Notice (Through KPPP www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, invites item-wise e-tenders as per the provisions of KW-1, 2 & 3 (Standard Tender Document) from eligible contractors registered with the Public Works Department and registered with KPPP for the works under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Project (CMIDP) for the year 2025-26 and the Adarsh Gram and MGNREGA Integration Project and Renovation Project for the year 2024-25 falling within the scope of this section.

1. Tender Form Download Date: 09.02.2026 to 23.02.2026 2. Last date for submission of Tender Form: 23.02.2026 at 16:00 hrs 3. Bid opening date: 24.02.2026 at 16:01 hrs

**Category of Works:** 1. GENERAL Category Works: 24233, 23743, 24231, 24212, 24230, 24187, 24266, 23797, 24204, 24416, 24407, 24410, 24413, 24415, 24402, 24414, 24417, 23062, 23060, 23061, 23059 **2. Category II-A Works:** 24198 **3. SC Category Works:** 24193, 24217, 24274, 23059 **4. ST Category Works:** 24227

Tender details can be viewed and downloaded from www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also accessed from the office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Sagara. For further information, the Subject Manager can be contacted at the office on Tel: 08183 226064 during office hours, or the K.P.P.P. helpdesk numbers: 080-25501216, 25501227.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division,**
**Sagara, Shivamogga Dist.**

## GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU

Ref :PWD/MD/TND/(488/36E):2025-26:JE-1 Dated: 12.02.2026

### SHORTERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
**(Karnataka Public E-Procurement Portal) / Extension**

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Division, Mangaluru inviting tender under K.P.P Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTPP Act Indent No. 33141 **under the Head of Account: 3054-04-105-1-01-200 MDR Bridge Maintenance** & Indent No 32046, 32966, 32578, 33183 and 2nd Call to the Indent No. 32546 & 3257 **under the Head of Account CMIDP AND The Last date for reciept of tender extended to 21.02.2026 upto 17.00 Hours.**

Indent No. 32302, 3250, 31090, 32049, 32000, 31229, 31616, 31758, 31601, 31420, 32010, 32516, 32020 **under the Head of Account CMIDP. The Last date for reciept of tender extended to 21.02.2026 upto 17.00 Hours.**

In the above work lowest cost of estimate is Rs.25.00 Lakhs & highest cost of estimate is Rs. 100.00 Lakhs. Tenders for the above works are invited as per the Standard "Tender Document KW-2 & KW-3. Further details such as value of work, amount put to tender, EMD etc., can be accessed on the KPP Portal at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further, for more details can contact O/o. Case Worker, Executive Engineer's Office, PWD, Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru, during official working hours. Contact No: 0824-2421160

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**

## ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
## ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
## ರಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-570019
TOWN PANCHYATHI, RAMMANAHALLI, MYSURU DISTRICT-570019
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: tp.rammanahalli.tp@gmail.com, web:www.rammanahallitown.mrc.gov.in

ದಿನಾಂಕ : 07.02.2026

**ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.- ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)**

[illegible] https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in [illegible]

1. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕಡೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 24.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 26.02.2026 [illegible]

| ಕ್ರ ಸಂ | ವಿವರ | ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) | ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT54763 | 54.20 | 108400/- |
| 2 | DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT55089 | 38.30 | 76600/- |
| 3 | DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT55088 | 38.30 | 76600/- |
| 4 | DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53292/CALL-2 | 30.00 | 60000/- |
| 5 | DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52140/CALL-2 | 80.00 | 160000/- |

ಸೂಚನೆ: [illegible] https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in [illegible]

ಸಹಿ/- ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ರಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ
ಸಹಿ/- ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ರಮ್ಮನಹಳ್ಳಿ

## ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ – 580001.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 0836-2442316 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: cpeddwd@rediffmail.com

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12-02-2026

**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ-38/2025-26 (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ)**

[illegible] No.FD 876 Exp-12/2017, Bangalore, Dated: 15-09-2017 [illegible] KW-1, 2 & 3 [illegible] https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in [illegible]

**Indent Numbers :**

**General : 18921/Call-3, 17852/Call-2, 22755/Call-2, 17877/Call-2, 18918/Call-2, 18695/Call-2, 19203/Call-2**

[illegible] 13-02-2026 [illegible] 21-02-2026 [illegible] 4.00 [illegible] 23-02-2026 [illegible] 4.30 [illegible] 02-03-2026 [illegible] 11.00 [illegible]

[illegible] https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in [illegible]

ಸಹಿ/- (ಆರ್.ಎಂ. [illegible])
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರರು,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

## KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CEC/SEC/EEC/2025-26/832 Date:11.02.2026

### BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
**(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)**

KPTCL invites bids on KPPP portal for **"Appointment of consultant for providing land audit and land inventory management services to selected parcels of lands belonging to KPTCL all over the state and facilitation services for aggregation of land from land owners with consent/direct purchase for sub-stations and lines for ownership by KPTCL and Right Of Way respectively to an extent of 394 locations (1085 acres) (Phase - III)".**

The bids will be received through E-procurement portal only. The details regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement portal can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in after 13.02.2026** and the last date & time for receipt of bids as per KPP portal.

Any extensions of due date for bid submission will be intimated in the e-procurement portal. Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. All Corrigendum's / Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the bids.

**Sd/- Chief Engineer (Civil), KPTCL,**
**8th Floor, Indhana Bhavna , Ananda Rao Circle,**
**Bengaluru - 560 009.**

## BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shanthinagara Division, P.U. Building, 9th Floor,
M G Road, Bengaluru - 560 001

No: EE/SN/TEND/20/2025-26 Date: 12-02-2026

### INVITATION FOR TWO COVER TENDER (KW4)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer (Shanthinagara) invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table given below. The Tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the table in appropriate class registered in Bangalore Central City Corporation / CPWD /KPWD / Railways / MES / any State or Central Govt organization.

| Sl No. | Name of the works |
|---|---|
| 1. | Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains at areas **Ward No-166,** Shanthinagara **Ward No-168,** Neelasandra **Ward No-169,** Vannarpet and **Ward No-172,** Agaram of Shanthinagara Constituency. **Approximate value of work ₹.1000.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.1500000.00** |

**Calendar of Events :** (1) Availability of RFP documents from **18-02-2026** onwards. (2) Pre Bid meeting will be held on **26-02-2026** at **3:30** pm in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Central Zone-1, BCCC, 18th Floor, Public Utility Building, Bengaluru - 01 Headed by Chief Engineer (3) Last Date for Submission of tender documents on or before **03-03-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Technical Bids will be opened on **04-03-2026** at **4:30** pm.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**
**Shanthinagara Division**

## ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
## ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
## ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
Phone: 0821-2424079, 2422302 E-Mail:dcofficemysuru@gmail.com

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.02.2026

**ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕಂದಾಯ [illegible] https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in [illegible] (1) ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01 ಮತ್ತು 02 ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ [illegible] ದಿನಾಂಕ :25.02.2026 [illegible] 3.00 ಗಂಟೆ. (2) ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ-01 ಮತ್ತು 02ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ [illegible] ದಿನಾಂಕ 11.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆ [illegible] (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:12.03.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ಗಂಟೆ [illegible] (4) ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :03 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ [illegible] ದಿನಾಂಕ :17.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ :18.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ.

| ಕ್ರ ಸಂ | ವಿವರ | ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) | ಇ. ಎಂ. ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | RD/2025-26/SE0508 (Package-01) | 235.60 | 389300.00 |
| 2 | RD/2025-26/SE0509 (Package-02) | 250.73 | 376100.00 |
| 3 | RD/2025-26/IND0250 | 6.00 | 15000.00 |

ಸೂಚನೆ: 1) [illegible] http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in [illegible]

ಸಹಿ/-ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಪರವಾಗಿ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

TIMES BUSINESS
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026

## Travel and Insurance Dominated Wallet Share of Indians in 2025

Travel took the lion's share of ₹37 for every ₹100 spent by Indians, while insurance emerged as the second-biggest priority in Indian households at ₹25, signalling rising risk awareness. Daily essentials and big-ticket items mattered, with ₹10 flowing into FMCG and ₹8 into consumer durables, while organised retail chains captured ₹6 as shoppers formally bundled purchases

*Excluding food and other informal categories

**How India Spent ₹100 in 2025: Wallet Share For Key Expenditures**

Source: CMS Consumption Report 2025

**Education, media and entertainment, and e-commerce took up a modest share,** indicating that beyond travel and protection, consumers are upgrading selectively, not uniformly splurging across categories

# New base, reworked weights: Retail inflation at 2.8% in Jan

## New Series Aims At Better Capturing Consumption Patterns

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Retail inflation was at 2.8% in Jan, the first print under the new data series which was released on Thursday with several new additions and weightage of food being reduced.

The base year in the new series has been upgraded to 2024 from the current 2012 and uses the household consumption survey 2023-24 data to better capture the changing consumption pattern in the country. The data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), was at 2.8% in Jan under the new series. Food inflation in Jan was estimated at 3.1%. Rural inflation was marginally lower at 2.7% compared to urban which was at 2.8%. In Dec 2025, retail inflation was at 1.3% under the old series. Personal care, social protection and miscellaneo-

▶ 'INFLATION MAY BECOME LESS VOLATILE', P20

us goods, which include gold and silver jewellery surged 19% in Jan. The data also showed silver jewellery inflation soared nearly 100% during the month.

The most visible change in the new series is the reduction in the weight of food and beverages to around 37% from the previous 46%. The data captures the declining food share in household expenditure, importance of housing, services, and transport-related items and is better aligned with current consumption behaviour. High weight of food in the 2012 series had often led to volatility in the retail inflation numbers, prompting some policymakers to call for a revision. Food still remains the largest component in the new series.

The number of items has increased from 299 to 358 under the new series. Goods items have increased from 259 to 308 while services rose from 40 to 50. The statistics office said this expansion strengthens the representation of the services sector, which has assumed greater importance in household expenditure over time.

For the first-time, rural house rent has been included to improve coverage of rural housing consumption while there is "strengthened representation of modern consumption items such as online media services and fuels like CNG and PNG".

Coverage of data available on digital and administrative sources, including telephone charges, rail fare, air fare, fuel, postal charges and online media and streaming services (OTT subscriptions) has been improved, the statistics office said. "Our preliminary assessment is that the expected uptick (as per old series) in CPI inflation in FY2027 relative to FY2026 was largely anticipated to be driven by food and beverages segment. With a somewhat lower weight for F&B in the new series vis-à-vis the old series, the expected base-effect led uptick in the headline print in FY2027 would likely be tempered," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ratings agency Icra.

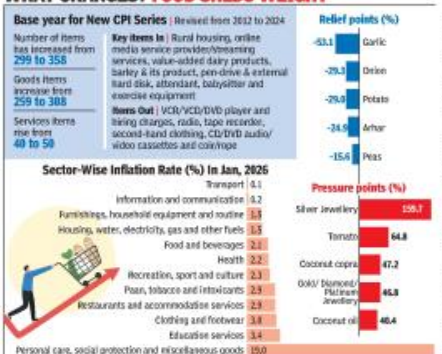
### WHAT CHANGES? FOOD SHEDS WEIGHT

**Base year for New CPI Series** | Revised from 2012 to 2024

- Number of items has increased from 299 to 358
- Goods items increase from 259 to 308
- Services items rise from 40 to 50

**Key items in** | Rural housing, online media service provider/streaming services, value-added dairy products, barkey & its product, pen-drive & external hard disk, attendant, babysitter and exercise equipment

**Items Out** | VCR/VCD/DVD player and hiring charges, radio, tape recorder, second-hand clothing, CD/DVD audio/video cassettes and compact




Source: Mospi

## Cause of NSDL glitch being analysed, says Sebi chairman

**Mumbai:** A root cause analysis of NSDL's recent tech glitch that mainly delayed inter-depository settlements for several days this month, is being carried out, Tuhin Kanta Pandey, chairman, Sebi said on Thursday. Once the report is ready it will be put up with Sebi's technical advisory committee and corrective steps will be taken, he said.

"Sebi was completely monitoring (the issue) all through," the Sebi chief said. "Whenever such glitches occur, a detailed analysis is done after the root cause analysis. Whatever necessary action needs to be taken in the short, medium and long term is taken, including whether vendors must be asked to do something more or whether something has to be redone. Sometimes there are legacy software systems where some glitches may come because of the growing nature of the market," he said. TNN

## Kisan credit card to have e-rupee loans

**Mumbai:** RBI has proposed sweeping changes to the Kisan Credit Card framework, including the use of central bank digital currency or e-Rupee for farm credit, as part of its draft Commercial Banks-Kisan Credit Card Scheme Directions, 2026, aimed at widening access, improving flexibility and tightening safeguards for small and marginal farmers. Under the draft directions, KCC credit can be delivered through CBDC with programmability features that allow funds to be used only for specified purposes. The RBI has also mandated that banks enable KCC operations through UPI and other digital channels, allowing real-time payments at mandis for inputs such as seeds and fertilisers. TNN

# RBI curbs harsh loan recovery practices

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Reserve Bank of India has tightened recovery and repossession norms to curb harassment and improve borrower protection. The draft amendments require banks to first resolve borrower complaints before starting recovery. Lenders must also disclose the identity of the recovery agent before contact.

The changes are part of the draft second amendment to the directions on responsible business conduct and will take effect on July 1, 2026.

As per the draft rules, banks and recovery agents are barred from using harsh practices. They cannot use threatening or abusive language, send inappropriate messages on phones or social media, or harass a borrower's relatives, friends, referees, or colleagues. The rules also ban public shaming, invasion of privacy, threats or use of violence, and misleading claims about the size of dues or legal action for non-payment.

The RBI has also limited when and how borrowers can be contacted. Agents can call or visit only between 08:00 and 19:00 hours. They may deal only with the borrower or guarantor and cannot approach other contacts. Calls and visits must be avoided during events such as bereavements, marriages, or festivals.

Recovery procedures have also been tightened. Banks cannot start legal action as the first step to recover dues or seize assets. If a borrower raises a complaint, the case cannot be handed to a recovery agent until the issue is settled, unless the bank can show the complaint lacks merit. All recovery calls must be logged, with lenders required to record the time, number, and content of calls or messages. In microfinance loans, agents can visit a borrower's home or workplace only if the borrower skips two or more meetings fixed at an agreed location.

## Oz telco Telstra to cut 200 jobs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Over 200 jobs at Australian telecom major Telstra are expected to be cut as the company rolls out AI capabilities and shifts some roles to India, according to a report in The Guardian.

Last year, Telstra and Accenture signed the JV to accelerate Telstra's data and AI roadmap, improve customer experience, and help teams operate more efficiently. When TOI reached out to Telstra, the company said, "On Tuesday, we spoke with the Data & AI Joint Venture team about proposed changes to our workforce, including reducing roles where work is no longer needed and moving some work to our JV team in India. These changes would see the JV use Accenture's global capabilities, advanced AI expertise, and specialist hub in India to deliver Telstra's data and AI roadmap more quickly."

## Shadowfax Q3 revenue up 66%

**Bengaluru:** Logistics firm Shadowfax reported a 65.5% year-on-year rise in revenue to Rs 1,360 crore for the December quarter of FY26, marking its first quarterly results as a listed company. The company delivered 20.6 crore orders across express parcel and hyper local segments during the quarter, up 62% year-on-year and 28.7% sequentially. TNN

# GST cut, lower inflation help HUL Q3 revenues grow 4.3%

## Net Soars To ₹7K Cr On One-Off Gain From Ice Cream Biz Demerger

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** A mix of low food inflation and GST cuts have put more money into the hands of people, aiding demand for consumer goods, FMCG giant Hindustan Unilever (HUL) said on Thursday. It projected FY27 growth to be better than FY26 even as the firm cautioned that input costs remain volatile due to a depreciating rupee and divergent commodity trends.

Helped by favourable macro trends and improved consumer sentiment following months of sluggish growth, HUL's strategy will be to shore up sales volumes.

"We are obsessed with volume-led revenue growth," CEO & MD Priya Nair said in a post-earnings briefing here, adding that rural consumption continues to grow ahead of urban. The per capita consumption in rural areas is much lower, leaving room for higher growth, Nair said. "But we see both urban and rural growth to be stable and firm," she added.

HUL's revenue from operations increased to Rs 16,806 crore on a standalone basis in the Dec quarter, translating into a year-on-year growth of 4.3%. Net profits jumped to Rs 7,076 crore in Q3FY26 from Rs 3,001 crore in the year-ago period on the back of a one-off gain arising from the demerger of its ice cream business. **Profit after tax before exceptional items from continuing operations for the quarter however, grew by a mere 1% to Rs 2,570 crore due to impact of the labour codes.** In Q3, HUL incurred a one-time gratuity impact due to labour codes amounting to Rs 110 crore, said new CFO Nirunjan Gupta. The company delivered a 5% underlying sales growth and a 4% underlying volume growth in the quarter. HUL results, however, failed to cheer the street with the stock price ending at Rs 2,410 apiece on the BSE, down 2.1%.

"Our broad-based growth in the current quarter reflects gradual momentum across our portfolio. Looking ahead, we expect the operating environment to remain conducive for a sustained recovery in consumption," said Gupta in his first earnings call after assuming office in Nov.

Consumption gains from GST cuts on a host of essentials which kicked in last Sept will play out in the long term, alongside boosting premiumisation instead of showing up by way of a short-term uptic in demand, Gupta said. Under Nair, HUL is doubling down on quick commerce which now accounts for 3% of the firm's sales, and scaling D2C businesses, betting on emerging growth areas such as health and wellbeing as rise of instant shopping and new age brands change the way India consumes.

> We are moving at speed to build a business that drives desire at scale in our brands, execution excellence across all channels and cost discipline. We have set clear priorities for growth-building a brand portfolio for the future, with more beauty, wellbeing and personal care, prioritising premium segments and digital commerce, and anchoring our growth in the US and India
>
> —Fernando Fernandez | CEO, UNILEVER

### HUL completes acquisition of Oziva

**Mumbai:** HUL has acquired the remaining 49% stake in D2C brand Oziva for Rs 824 crore, making it a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company. HUL bought an initial 51% majority stake in the brand in Dec 2022.

Oziva, a plant-based, clean-label consumer wellness brand which focuses on spaces such as lifestyle protein and hair & beauty supplements has grown to a Rs 480 crore brand in 2025, HUL said. HUL also said that it has sold its minority 19.8% stake in Wellbeing Nutrition to USV in a Rs 307 crore deal. TNN

# 'New series may make inflation less volatile'

## Lower Weightage Of Food, Beverages Will Help Lead To Better Monetary Policy Response: CEA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Lower weightage of food and beverages in new consumer price inflation (CPI) series may make overall inflation less volatile, leading to monetary policy response to be more focused on aggregate demand pressure, rather than dealing with supply-induced inflation, chief economic advisor (CEA) V **Anantha Nageswaran** said Thursday. This will help calibrating monetary and fiscal policy better as the updated data reflects current consumption patterns and economic conditions, he added.

Highlighting the policy implications of the new inflation series, the CEA indicated that lower volatility may lead to better predictability of govt's budget and also help assess inflation expectations in households and businesses.

"The new CPI series now provides policy makers with a more up-to-date basis for assessing real incomes, consumption trends and purchasing power," said Nageswaran. The weightage of volatile 'food and beverages' items in the new series has been reduced to about 37% from 46% earlier, which according to Nageswaran reflects a progressive diversification of expenditure towards health, education, mobility, and connectivity.

"The revised basket also highlights the increasing role of services in consumption. This brings consumption measurement closer to the evolving structure of output and employment, where services account for a rising share of economic activity and the new series also recognises the growing role of digital channels in price formation."

Nageswaran also said the new CPI series now captures housing costs more accurately across regions, leading to better measurement of the rural cost of living, reducing the urban bias in inflation estimation. "As a result, poverty estimates become more accurate since real consumption and real income calculations depend directly on CPI. Improved cost of living measurement also enhances the targeting efficiency of welfare schemes, ensuring that benefits, subsidies and social transfers are better aligned with actual regional price realities."

# Cognizant flags reputational risks in offshoring

**Shilpa Phadnis & Veena Mani** | TNN

**Bengaluru:** Cognizant flagged risks from potential anti-outsourcing legislation in its annual report released on Thursday, warning that such measures and persistent negative perceptions around offshore services could impair its ability to serve clients and weigh on its business and financial performance.

The company also highlighted reputational risks linked to offshore outsourcing, including allegations of job displacement and the theft or misuse of sensitive client data, particularly involving service providers in India. This marked the first time Cognizant extensively called out risks associated with offshoring.

"The practice of outsourcing services to organisations operating in other countries is a topic of political discussion in the United States, which is our largest market, as well as other regions in which we have clients," the filing said. "For example, in the United States, measures aimed at limiting or restricting the performance of services from an offshore location or imposing burdens on US companies that utilise such services were put forward at both the federal and state levels to address concerns over the perceived association between offshore outsourcing and the loss of jobs domestically. If any such measure is enacted... our ability to provide services to our clients could be impaired," it added.

Cognizant noted that its US operating subsidiary relies on a significant number of skilled workers holding H-1B and L-1 visas and could face higher costs and processing delays if new laws, regulations, policy changes, or executive orders take effect. The company's workforce rose to 353,600 employees as of December 31, last year, up by about 14,000 from 336,800 a year earlier, reflecting steady hiring. India continued to account for the bulk of the workforce, with headcount increasing to 256,900 from 243,500—an addition of roughly 15,500 employees. In contrast, North America saw a slight decline to 61,900 from 62,800, while Continental Europe fell to 14,600 from 15,500. Headcount in the United Kingdom also dipped marginally to 7,800 from 8,200, even as employee numbers across other regions rose to 30,700 from 28,900. Cognizant also cautioned that the use of emerging technologies, including generative AI, in its offerings could expose the company to additional risks if these tools fail to perform as expected, potentially leading to cost overruns, project delays, financial penalties, or reputational damage. The company added that some contracts tie a portion of its compensation to performance metrics such as cost savings, revenue growth, business outcomes, and adherence to timelines.

# Bengaluru leads GCC leasing in 2025: Report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Bengaluru has strengthened its position as India's global capability centre (GCC) capital, supported by a deep talent pool, a mature technology ecosystem, and continued investment from global enterprises, an Anarock FICCI Workplace 2026 report showed.

In 2025, the city accounted for over one-third of the country's total GCC leasing, maintaining a significant lead over other markets. Pune followed with a 16% share, while Delhi-NCR and Hyderabad each captured about 14%, underscoring their rising appeal but continued gap with Bengaluru. The city recorded more than 12 million sft of GCC leasing during the year, far ahead of Pune's 4.8 million sft and roughly 4.5 million sft each in Hyderabad and NCR.

This dominance highlights Bengaluru's strong combination of skilled talent, modern office infrastructure, and connectivity. Established tech corridors such as Outer Ring Road, Whitefield, and North Bengaluru continue to attract multinational companies seeking long-term expansion. Multinationals continue to expand their presence: Carl Zeiss, for instance, launched its first GCC in the city in Nov 2024 and plans to double its workforce to 5,000 while investing ₹656 million in a manufacturing facility. Cargill is set to add 500 roles across digital and technology teams.

# India's first pvt quantum computer coming to B'luru

**Shilpa_Phadnis**
@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** India's first 8-qubit quantum computer is set to be installed at a private university in Bengaluru, marking a significant step in bringing advanced computing capabilities directly into the academic ecosystem.

Bengaluru-based quantum computing company QpiAI partnered with Alliance University to provide access to India's first commercially available 8-qubit superconducting quantum computing system. The centre will be housed at Alliance University's upcoming Electronics City campus and will be a 50:50 co-investment between QpiAI and the university.

The academic programme will follow a structured roadmap. Students will begin with circuit design and simulations before progressing to application-specific projects. Work will initially focus on smaller-scale problems using the 8-qubit system, with pathways to higher-capacity machines such as 16- and 66-qubit platforms.

> Quantum computing differs from classical computing. While traditional computers process information in binary bits—either 0 or 1—quantum computers use qubits. This allows quantum systems to solve complex problems—such as molecular modelling, material discovery, and optimisation—efficiently than conventional machines.

The centre is expected to serve as a quantum computing hub for over 200 global technology companies, national defence and aerospace PSUs, and India's 11,000-plus start-up ecosystem. The initiative aims to move quantum technology beyond research labs and cloud-based simulators. "Instead of relying solely on simulators or cloud platforms, students will be able to design circuits, test algorithms, and run experiments on an actual quantum computer. Early use cases include hydrogen atom modelling, small molecule simulations, circuit evaluation, and prototyping manufacturing scenarios to study qubit behaviour," said Nagendra Nagaraja, founder and CEO of QpiAI. QpiAI integrates quantum computing and AI to tackle complex challenges across multiple industries.

Last year, QpiAI raised $32 million in a round led by Avataar Ventures and the National Quantum Mission (NQM). Abhay G Chebbi, pro-chancellor of Alliance University, said the centre will integrate degree programmes, research, and enterprise engagement. He added that there is a significant pipeline for Quantum-as-a-Service, which the university intends to enter in. Some capacity will also be allocated for govt use cases such as traffic management, positioning the facility as a runway for quantum technology to grow. QpiAI is also setting up the Quantum Supremacy Center in Devanahalli, which will house 100 quantum computers and is expected to become one of the powerful compute centres in the world.

# *Bengaluru deeptech firm redefines robot perception with new platform*

**Akhil.George**@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** Robots traditionally have been able to reliably handle only objects they're explicitly programmed or trained for – training that takes months. Bengaluru-based CynLr is attempting what its co-founder Gokul NA calls the missing piece in robotics"—the ability for machines to handle unfamiliar objects with the instinct of a human baby.

CynLr, short for Cybernetics Laboratory, was started in August 2019 by Gokul NA and Nikhil Ramaswamy. The deeptech robotics platform they are attempting to build seeks to compete with the tech whiz-kids of the tech world working on the field of humanoid robotics right now – think Tesla's Optimus robots or Figure AI's OI robots.

The company unveiled an important piece of their robotic system on Wednesday at their lab in Bengaluru – an object intelligence platform that they say has the capability to pick up almost any object it sees without having to be pre-trained to pick it up. "A baby need not know that it's open," Gokul said.

"It will simply go and grab it."

CynLr's robots attempt something similar, learning to pick completely unknown objects within 10 to 15 seconds, rather than through months of retraining.

At the core of the stack is a vision system called CLIK, which perceives an unseen object as a "recipe" of geometry, texture, reflectance and grasp possibilities. Gokul explained that they modeled the robot's capabilities on the human neurological system. "We recreate what happens in our human vision," Gokul said. "The human eye does not see colour first. It sees motion. CynLr's system prioritises motion and depth cues before interpreting colour. Robots need their own eyes, touch and feel to learn and map the world. This requires what we call vision force models, not vision language models."

> We recreate what happens in our human vision...The human eye does not see colour first. It sees motion...CynLr's system prioritises motion and depth cues before interpreting colour...Robots need their own eyes, touch and feel to learn and map the world. This requires what we call vision force models, not vision language models
>
> —Gokul NA | CO-FOUNDER, CYNLR



Essentially, rather than training robots in virtual sandboxes and hoping those lessons translate to the real world, CynLr is attempting to embed perception and reasoning directly into the machine, so that intelligence is not simulated first and deployed later, but born in the physical world itself.

The company has partnered with Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to build perception systems that function closer to brain-like adaptation. "The last fifty years of robotics were about controlled environments, machines that could repeat but not respond," Gokul said. CynLr's long-term goal is the "Universal Factory" – a software-defined manufacturing floor where the same machines switch between products by changing software, not hardware.

With pilot deployments under way with luxury automotive and semiconductor firms and a target of producing one robot per day by 2028, CynLr is betting that rebuilding robotics from the neurological layer up will finally make machines less like CNC tools and more like apprentices – capable of figuring things out as they go.

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## K'taka sanctions ₹25 crore for 2,500 Akka Cafes

**Bengaluru:** The Karnataka govt has sanctioned Rs 25 crore to set up 2,500 coffee kiosks across the state under the Akka Cafe brand, industries minister MB Patil said on Thursday.

The kiosks will be operated by women trained through self-help groups (SHGs), with the initiative aimed at strengthening the coffee value chain and generating employment. Patil announced the move while inaugurating the India International Coffee Festival organised by the Specialty Coffee Association of India at Palace Grounds.

The minister added that the govt is also extending scholarships to children of workers employed in coffee estates and large plantations in Kodagu district. TNN

# TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026

IN A TIME OF DECEIT TELLING THE TRUTH IS A REVOLUTIONARY ACT — GEORGE ORWELL

BLAKE LIVELY AND JUSTIN BALDONI VISIT NY COURT TO SEE IF SEXUAL ASSAULT LAWSUIT CAN BE SETTLED BEFORE A TRIAL

GWYNETH PALTROW SAYS UNDERWENT BLOOD-FILTERING TREATMENT FOR £36K TO REMOVE 'TOXINS' FROM BODY

## Trump's trade turbulence casts shadow on US-India agreement

### House Vote Junks Prez's Emergency Powers To Impose Tariffs On Canada

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

**Washington:** A rare congressional rebuke of President Donald Trump's Canada tariffs, a presidential rant targeting a flagship US-Canada bridge, and an impending Supreme Court ruling on emergency trade powers are converging to deepen uncertainty around American trade policy — and raising fresh doubts about the durability of the fledgling US-India trade framework.

On Wednesday, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives voted 219-211 to terminate Trump's use of a "national emergency" to impose punitive tariffs on Canadian goods. Six Republicans joined all but one Democrat in backing the resolution — an extraordinary act of dissent in a chamber where the GOP holds a narrow 218-214 majority. The Senate, despite its Republican tilt, has already voted twice to block Canada tariffs.

The resolution is largely symbolic; Trump, armed with executive power, is unlikely to retreat. But its political weight is significant. Lawmakers appear uneasy with the president's expansive use of emergency powers under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to wage trade battles traditionally overseen by Congress. Some on Capitol Hill privately acknowledge the vote was also intended to signal to the Supreme Court — which is reviewing the legality of tariffs — that Congress does not endorse this interpretation of executive authority.

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments last Nov, and is expected to rule soon, possibly as early as its next non-argument session on Feb 20. Justices across ideological lines expressed scepticism about whether fentanyl flows and trade imbalances — of the kind US has with India — qualify as a "national emergency" justifying unilateral tariffs. If the Court strikes down the measures, the federal govt could face $150-$200 billion in refunds to importers who have paid the duties since 2025 — a fiscal and political jolt.

The legal battle unfolds against a backdrop of renewed friction with Ottawa. On Monday, Trump threatened to block the opening of $4.6 billion Gordie Howe International Bridge linking Detroit and Windsor, accusing Canada of exploiting the US and demanding 50% ownership. He claimed the Canadian-funded project violated "Buy American" rules — assertions contradicted by Canadian officials, who note that both US and Canadian steel and labour were used.

For Canada, the episode reinforces a pattern: agreements can be upended by presidential impulse. Trump once celebrated the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) as the "biggest trade deal in history," replacing NAFTA, which he had branded the "worst ever." Yet even after signing USMCA in 2020, he imposed steel and aluminium tariffs on Canada and Mexico under security provisions and repeatedly threatened withdrawal to extract concessions on unrelated issues such as immigration.

A similar script played out with South Korea. After renegotiating the KORUS trade pact in 2018 and touting it as more equitable, Trump recently slapped 25% tariffs on Korean exports, citing procedural delays despite Seoul's pledge of $350 billion in US investments. Allies have drawn a lesson: no deal is immune from revision. That perception now hangs over India.

Last week's announcement of a US-India trade framework was billed by the White House as a breakthrough, with claims that India would slash tariffs on US pulses, eliminate digital services taxes, and purchase $500 billion in American goods. Within hours, following pushback from New Delhi, references to pulses disappeared, digital tax commitments were removed, and language stating India had "committed" to purchases was softened to "intends." The rapid edits suggested that elements were inserted prematurely — or aspirationally — and withdrawn once challenged. For Indian negotiators, the episode echoed a broader concern: goalposts in Washington can shift without warning.

If a signed trilateral pact like USMCA cannot shield Canada from sudden tariffs, and if Congress itself is moving to curb presidential trade powers, India has reason to question the durability of any arrangement struck with the current administration. New Delhi is simultaneously negotiating an agreement with the European Union.

Trade deals rest not only on market access but on credibility. With Congress rebelling, the Supreme Court weighing limits on executive authority, and the president oscillating between praise and punishment of his own deals, America's trade posture appears unsettled. For India, the message is cautionary: in Washington's current climate, even signed deals may prove provisional.

The Gordie Howe International Bridge will link city of Detroit in US state of Michigan with Windsor in Canada's sate of Ontario

### US ends surge of ICE agents in Minnesota

President Trump's border czar Tom Homan said on Thursday that a significant drawdown of immigration enforcement agents in Minnesota was under way and that he had proposed and Trump had agreed that the surge there should end. Under Operation Metro Surge, Trump had deployed about 3,000 armed immigration agents by late Jan to deport migrants in Minnesota. The surge has led to tumultuous scenes in Minneapolis, the state's biggest city. Residents have come out onto the streets, some blowing whistles, in protest against masked agents in military-style gear. "I have proposed and President Trump has concurred that this surge operation conclude," Homan told reporters. A week ago, Homan announced that about 700 out of 3,000 immigration agents would be withdrawn. Homan said on Thursday that many of the remaining agents would be sent home in the coming week. REUTERS

## Russia blocks WhatsApp, bats for state-backed alternative

**Moscow:** US messenger app WhatsApp, owned by Meta Platforms, has been completely blocked in Russia for failing to comply with local law, the Kremlin said on Thursday. It has suggested Russians to use state-backed "national messenger" instead.

"Due to Meta's unwillingness to comply with Russian law, such a decision was indeed taken and implemented," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "MAX is an accessible alternative, and it is available on the market as an alternative," said Peskov. Critics say MAX is a surveillance tool. Russian authorities deny this. The move against WhatsApp is the culmination of six months of pressure on the US company.

Meta had already been designated as an extremist organisation inside Russia, and WhatsApp complained about what it said was an attempt to fully block its service. "Trying to isolate over 100 million users from private and secure communication is a backwards step and can only lead to less safety for people in Russia," it said. Some domain names associated with WhatsApp disappeared from Russia's national register of domain names, meaning devices inside Russia stopped receiving its IP addresses from the app and could be accessed only through a virtual private network. REUTERS

## With fewer sponsors for H-1B visas, hirings to be selective

### Cos Focus On Precision Selection, Candidates Within US

Lubna Kably | TNN

For thousands of Indian professionals and the companies that seek to hire them, the upcoming H-1B season for fiscal 2027 may prove to be the most uncertain in the programme's history.

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has confirmed that H-1B cap registration for FY 2027 will open March 4–19, 2026. But unlike prior years, companies are entering the upcoming season amid a wage-weighted selection framework, a $100,000 fee that applies mainly to overseas hires, and prolonged consular backlogs in India.

Kripa Upadhyay, Seattle based attorney and partner at Buchalter, told **TOI**, "Employers are treating the FY 2027 H-1B season like a capital allocation decision, deciding which roles are truly worth six-figure risk exposure. The wage-weighted system effectively forces companies to front-load immigration strategy into compensation planning, long before they know whether a petition will even be selected. While the $100,000 fee is under litigation, most employers are planning as if it will survive — because the cost of being unprepared is far higher than the cost of compliance. Employers are moving away from volume filings and toward precision filings."

Attorneys say overall registration volumes are expected to decline this season. "Most companies are not proceeding with cases that will be subject to the $100,000 fee, with limited exceptions," said James Pack, partner at Fragomen, a global immigration law firm.

Cyrus D Mehta, a New York-based immigration attorney added, "Most employers are focusing on filing H-1B petitions with a request for change of status for mainly F-1 students in the US. Under this approach they do not need to pay the $100,000 fee."

While the changes may not help Indian professionals in India, aspiring to work in the US, it does tilt the scales in favour of the large contingent of Indian students who have completed their optional practical training and are aspiring for a job — albeit on a US visa.

Snehal Batra, managing attorney at NPZ Law Group said, "With fewer employers participating in the H-1B programme, the overall number of registrations could shrink. On the flip side, this could mean a strong possibility that selection rates will be high despite the new wage-weighted selection rule, particularly for those being paid at the highest wage levels."

Under the new wage-weighted system, Level IV positions, the highest wage tier, will receive four entries in the selection pool, while Level I roles will receive just one. Thus, sponsoring employers that pay less, relative to other employers, for the same jobs in the same geographic area, would have lower odds of selection under a wage-weighted model.

"The FY 2027 H-1B season is unlike anything employers have faced before," said Rajiv S Khanna, Arlington based managing attorney at Immigration.com. "The immediate strategic response involves a comprehensive wage analysis for every potential registrant. Employers must now determine the Standard Occupational Classification code, the area of intended employment, and the corresponding prevailing wage level before registration opens. Previously, that analysis happened only after selection. Now, it is front-loaded into the registration process itself."

"The wage-weighted system has forced a recalibration of the H-1B strategy to 'make each ticket count'," said Ashwin Sharma, a Jacksonville-based attorney. "Employers are conducting SOC code audits to ensure accurate classifications and analysing whether marginal salary increases can bump candidates into higher wage tiers - sometimes a few thousand dollars can mean the difference between a 30% and 46% selection probability."

Consular interview availability in India has collapsed and is down to a trickle following the expansion of mandatory social media vetting and the elimination of third-country stamping options. None of the five US consulates in India are showing available H-category interview slots through the end of 2026. "Whether any new hire who wins the FY 2027 lottery will make it to the US in time for key onsite projects is the moot question. A candidate selected in the upcoming H-1B season would typically need a visa interview before commencing H-1B employment on Oct 1, 2026. With consulates showing no availability through 2026 and into 2027, that timeline is broken," said Khanna.

A trend that had already begun is expected to accelerate, with employers looking beyond the H-1B programme altogether. Attention is being given to alternatives such as J-1 visas for universities and large institutions, L-1 intra-company transfers, O-1 visas for individuals with expertise, direct employment-based green card sponsorship, and National Interest Waivers.

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services has confirmed that H-1B cap registration for FY 2027 will open March 4-19, 2026

## In recent years, only in 2014 and 2024 has B'desh turnout been below 50%: Analysts

▸Continued from P1

However, the turnout in the poll was only 47% as voting closed at 4.30pm — a number, analysts termed "unimpressive for a full-fledged election amid the interim govt's repeated claims that it would be 'free, fair and inclusive and pave the way for a new Bangladesh'". Hasina called the general election "a well-planned farce" by the Yunus administration and said that "this extremely low turnout clearly shows that an Awami League-free election was widely rejected by the people".

Only twice has the voting percentage been below 50% in recent years, and on both occasions, the opposition did not participate alleging the possibility of rigging by the Hasina govt, analysts said, citing the 2014 poll, when it was 40%, and in 2024, when it was 42%. In the 2008 general election, a turnout of 87% was reported, and in 2018, it was over 80%.

Meanwhile, the chief of Jamaat-e-Islami party, Shafiqur Rahman told reporters, on Thursday that his party would not do "politics of opposition" for the sake of it, in an indication that he was conceding the national election as votes were being counted. "We will do positive politics," Rahman said.

Polling was held in 299 seats as the one of the candidates of the Sherpur-3 constituency died. Voting for the 13th parliamentary election was held along with a referendum on a complex 84-point reform package that sought people's consent to reform proposals called the "July National Charter 2025". Voters were 'instructed' to vote 'yes' if they agreed more strongly with the proposals and 'no' if they disagreed.

The twin elections were held largely in a peaceful atmosphere with some isolated incidents of violence and with a relatively "low presence" of voters from minority communities, particularly Hindus, amid a series of attacks on them since the Hasina govt's fall in 2024.

"I would not say voters from the minority communities were absent. But the number would be very few. Their presence was low. We are assessing the situation," a prominent minority leader said quoting reports collected by minority organisations from across Bangladesh.

People take a photo of ongoing voter results for the 13th general election in Dhaka on Thursday; (above) Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus and his daughter Deena Afroz outside a polling station

### Report: 15 targeted murders of Hindus in a 45-day period

▸Continued from P 1

Locals spotted the body in the garden around 10am and informed authorities, police said, adding that the body bore visible injury marks, inflicted with sharp weapons, and was found in a bloodied condition. Ratan's elder brother Laxman said the family had been searching for him since the previous night. "In the morning, we were informed that his body was lying in the garden. We were called there and identified him. We do not know why he was killed," he said.

There have been at least 15 targeted murders of Hindus in a 45-day period, the South Asia Forum for Freedom of Religion Belief said in a statement.

### India didn't send observers for B'desh polls: MEA

Amidst the voting in Bangladesh, India said Thursday that it stands for free, fair, inclusive, and credible elections in the country. The ministry of external affairs (MEA) also said India had declined Dhaka's invitation to send observers for the polls.

"We should wait for the outcome to see what sort of mandate emerges, and thereafter, we will look at the issues. On the election, you know our position: we stand for free, fair, inclusive, and credible elections in Bangladesh," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. "We did receive an invitation to send observers, we have not sent our observers to Bangladesh," he added, when asked if India had sent observers. TNN

## Only 15% vision left in right eye: Imran to lawyer

**Islamabad:** Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday ordered authorities to form a medical team to examine imprisoned former PM **Imran Khan** before Feb 16, who recently told his attorney that he has lost roughly 85% of vision in his right eye.

Information minister Attaullah Tarar said two weeks ago that the 73-year-old former premier had undergone a brief medical procedure for an eye condition at a hospital in Islamabad and was in good health.

The Islamabad hospital said in a Jan 30 statement that he reported reduced vision in his right eye and was examined by a senior prison doctor. The hospital conducted the procedure with Khan's consent.

Salman Safdar, Khan's lawyer, told Supreme Court this week that his client had normal vision several months ago but developed blurred vision that was reported to prison officials. He told his attorney that a specialist diagnosed a blood clot and he has been left with only 15% vision in his right eye due to delayed treatment. Khan's party condemned the poor treatment for his deteriorating eyesight and threatened legal actions and demanded Khan receive unrestricted access to his personal physicians. AP

## Anti-drone laser use led to sudden closure of Texas airport: FAA

**Washington:** A secret military laser-based anti-drone system prompted the Trump administration to ban air traffic for more than seven hours in and out of the Texas border city of El Paso after US aviation officials raised drastic concerns about the safety of commercial air traffic.

The sudden closure of the airport by the Federal Aviation Administration stranded air travellers and disrupted medical evacuation flights overnight. The FAA initially said the closure would last 10 days for "special security reasons," in what would have been an unprecedented action involving a single airport.

Govt and airline officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the FAA closed the airspace due to concerns that an Army laser-based counter-drone system could pose risks to air traffic.

The FAA lifted its restrictions after the Army agreed to more safety tests before using the system, which is housed at Fort Bliss, next to El Paso International Airport. The White House was surprised by the El Paso airspace closure, according to sources. REUTERS

## 18-year-old woman with mental health issues named Canada shooting suspect

**Ottawa:** The suspect in a deadly school shooting in western Canada was an 18-year-old woman with mental health issues who killed her mother and stepbrother before attacking her former school, police said on Wednesday but investigators did not offer a motive for one of the worst mass slaughters in Canadian history.

The killer, whom police identified as Jesse Van Rootselaar, died by suicide after the shooting on Tuesday in Tumbler Ridge, a remote community of 2,400 people in the Pacific province of British Columbia. Police revised the death toll down to nine, including Van Rootselaar, from the initially reported 10.

On more than one occasion, Van Rootselaar had been apprehended under the provincial Mental Health Act for an assessment, said deputy commissioner Dwayne McDonald, commander of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in British Columbia. "Police had attended that (family) residence on multiple occasions over the past several years, dealing with concerns of mental health with respect to our suspect," McDonald said.

People pay tribute to shooting victims at a memorial in the town of Tumbler Ridge in Canada

McDonald said Van Rootselaar, who was born male but began identifying as a female six years ago, had first killed her mother, 39, and 11-year-old stepbrother at the family home. She then went to the school, where she shot a 39-year-old female teacher as well as three 12-year-old female students and two male students, one aged 12 and one aged 13. Police recovered a long gun and a modified handgun.

Dozens were injured, and two severely wounded victims remain in the hospital. One of those victims, a 12-year-old girl named Maya, was fighting for her life after sustaining gunshot wounds to the head and neck, her mother, Cia Edmonds, said in a Facebook post.

Police officers who arrived at the scene two minutes after the initial call encountered active gunfire, including rounds fired in their direction, according to authorities, before discovering Van Rootselaar dead from an apparent self-inflicted wound. She once attended the school but dropped out four years ago, police said.

McDonald said police had seized firearms from the family residence about two years ago but returned them after the owner, who he did not identify, successfully appealed the decision. Van Rootselaar previously had a firearms licence, but it expired in 2024. Canadians between the ages of 12 and 17 can obtain a minor's firearms licence after taking a firearms safety course and passing tests. REUTERS

## 'British Indians have helped UK economy since WWII'

Naomi Canton

**London:** A white paper published by the Aston India Centre has shown how Indian migrants to the UK have repeatedly helped transform the British economy since World War II.

Described as "one of the most consequential migration stories of modern Britain", the paper, titled "Migration of the Indian Diaspora to the UK", explores four waves of migrants from the 1940s post-war reconstruction to the post-2019 post-Brexit influx, showing how Indian migrants have strengthened UK's capacity to rebuild, adapt and prosper.

It recommends the UK adopt a migration strategy to align visa routes with employer demand, mutual qualification recognition with India, and for sector regulators in the UK and India to work together to verify credentials of workers and hold joint assessment clinics with employers to speed up recruitment and ensure the best people are hired.

**ASTON INDIA'S WHITE PAPER**

Written by the joint directors of Aston India Centre at Aston University, Prof Sangeeta Khorana and Prof Pawan Budhwar, as well as Manish Tiwari, chairman of Here&Now365, the report shows how Indian migrants have helped fill labour shortages since the 1940s. Until the 1970s there was no visa requirement for most Commonwealth citizens to move to the UK, and post-WWII the UK had many labour shortages which Indians came to fill, attracted by wage differentials and political upheaval back home.

Brexit in 2016 led to a loss of EU-origin workers in the UK. That, combined with policy liberalisation, led to a large influx of Indians as students, healthcare workers and skilled workers. Covid also triggered huge labour shortages in Britain. Indians are now the largest cohort on the skilled worker route and Indian migrants account for around 16% of all NHS professionals and 33% of the tech workforce.

Budhwar told **TOI**: "The white paper provides evidence-based analysis about the contribution of the Indian diaspora to the UK's economy and culture. It highlights that Indian diaspora are not a burden and are contributing significantly."

## DAILY PLANET

### China cracks down on online content fanning fears about marriage

China's top internet regulator said on Thursday it would launch a crackdown during the Lunar New Year holiday period to curb social media content it deemed problematic including any that fanned fears about getting married or having children. Beijing is seeking to boost the country's birthrate to head off a demographic crunch. As families gather for China's biggest holiday, which begins on Feb 17, the annual questioning of young people about their marital and childbearing status is a cultural touchstone portrayed in films, books and articles and bemoaned every year online. Aimed at creating a "festive, peaceful, and positive online atmosphere for Chinese New Year", the month-long crackdown will target a range of topics, including what the regulator called "digital slop".

Revellers celebrate the start of the street carnival in front of the Cathedral in Cologne, Germany

### Gallup to stop tracking US prez approval: Report

Famed US public opinion pollster Gallup will stop tracking approval ratings of political leaders, ending a decades-long practice, Washington newspaper The Hill reported Wednesday. The shift comes as President Trump has threatened pollsters saying last month: "Fake and Fraudulent Polling should be, virtually, a criminal offence." However, The Hill reported the polling agency — which has been tracking public approval of US presidents since the 1930s — said the move was "part of a broader, ongoing effort to align all of Gallup's public work with its mission."

# TIME TO HIT RESET BUTTON

**UAE, Canada Seek First Win After Turbulent Starts**

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FINDING THEIR WAY: Canada's Navneet Dhaliwal (right) and Harsh Thaker

**New Delhi:** On paper, Friday's T20 World Cup fixture at the Arun Jaitley Stadium pits the 17th-ranked T20I side against the 19th. In reality, UAE vs Canada is less about rankings and more about two teams trying to steady themselves after bruising starts and doing so with very different baggage.

The UAE arrive as the more seasoned Associate outfit. Since the last T20 World Cup, they have played 11 matches against Full Members; Canada, by contrast, played none. Yet UAE's preparations were rocked by a controversy that threatens to overshadow their campaign. Top-order batter Muhammad Zohaib was sent home on the eve of their opening encounter against New Zealand, officially for "disciplinary reasons" as stated by the Emirates Cricket Board, with the ICC citing "player mental well-being and team welfare issues".

Zohaib has reportedly claimed he was forced out. When a squad is built on consistency and clarity of roles, excluding a first-choice batter is no minor adjustment, it shakes the dressing-room balance.

The immediate impact was visible in UAE's opening fixture in Chennai. UAE posted a competitive total thanks to half-centuries from Muhammad Waseem and Alishan Sharafu, but the rest of the batting card eroded.

Then their bowlers were unable to apply pressure as New Zealand chased down 174 in just 15.2 overs.

Against Canada, the onus again will fall heavily on captain Waseem. His unbeaten 66 off 45 balls in the match against New Zealand showcased his command over tempo, clean hitting, and the ability to bat deep. UAE's hopes of settling their campaign may well hinge on whether their skipper can again be both the anchor as well as the accelerator.

Canada also faced a heavy defeat in their opening match against South Africa in Ahmedabad. They conceded too many and fell short with the bat, losing by 57 runs.

Canada's story, particularly in this tournament, carries a distinct subcontinental thread. The squad is shaped by players with Punjabi roots — from both sides of the India-Pakistan border — giving the team a cultural and cricketing blend that mirrors several diaspora leagues across the world. Dhaliwal embodies that identity. Born in Chandigarh, raised cricket-wise in Mohali, and now Canada's senior statesman at 37, he remains their most elegant batter. His 64 against South Africa was a reminder of his range — late cuts, inside-out drives, deft flicks, and the patience of someone who learned the game on Indian pitches before carrying it across continents.

There is also a charming footnote to his cricket journey. As a youngster at the PCA Stadium in Mohali, he once threw balls to an eight-year-old Shubman Gill when Gill's father brought him for practice.

**FACE-OFF**

CAN vs UAE — TV TIME: 3PM, STAR SPORTS, JIOHOTSTAR

LAST FIVE MATCHES

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAN | L | W | W | W | W |
| UAE | L | L | L | L | W |

VENUE: NEW DELHI

WEATHER 24°C

ODDS

| CAN | UAE |
|---|---|
| 6/4 | 6/10 |

# Lack of ICC support hurting USA: Shayan

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**Chennai:** The ongoing men's T20 World Cup has been defined by one recurring plot: Associate nations refusing to roll over against the 'big boys'.

In the wake of these results, the Associate teams have begun pressing for regular fixtures against Full Member nations.

On Thursday, USA batter Shayan Jahangir didn't mince words while stating that the team has not received the kind of exposure and financial backing it needs from the ICC.

It is to be noted that the ICC had taken over the welfare of USA players in the national set-up in Dec last year, including a key commitment to provide financial support.

Earlier, in Sept, the ICC had suspended USA Cricket (USAC) for serious breaches of the ICC Membership Criteria, with the board grappling with a severe governance and financial crisis. Things aren't rosy on the field either. Two defeats on the bounce have pushed USA to the edge, and Friday's clash against the Netherlands at the MA Chidambaram Stadium will decide their fate.

A defeat will shut the door on their Super-8 hopes.

"The exposure and the kind of funding that we also get from ICC are simply not enough. We've been given the tag of an Associate nation but we are nothing short of a great team. We gave India a good contest. We haven't been nurtured properly," said the Pakistan-born Jahangir.

"It's all our players who are putting in the hard yards without financial resources, without infrastructure. I think if ICC pays more attention to all the Associates, you'll see more big games," he added.

According to the ICC schedule, USA play only 12 matches a year.

"I think it has a lot to do with the funding as well. If we have that funding from the ICC... it's a request from us to really look into it. I'm telling you, there's so much talent in Associate cricket. There are so many cricketers who are so good but not given the exposure. There's this one guy from Nepal and he had scored a nine-ball half-century."

**FACE-OFF**

USA vs NED — TV TIME: 7PM, STAR SPORTS, JIOHOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD

| NED | USA |
|---|---|
| 3 | 0 |

LAST FIVE MATCHES

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NED | W | L | NR | L | L |
| USA | L | L | W | W | L |

VENUE: CHENNAI

WEATHER 24°C

ODDS

| NED | USA |
|---|---|
| 6/4 | 5/10 |

# Gharami here for the long haul

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**299** Gharami's score versus Andhra Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal in Kalyani last week, his highest score in first-class cricket and his first double century. It's the third highest for Bengal in the Ranji Trophy, behind the 323 by Devang Gandhi vs Assam in Guwahati in 1998-99 and 303* by Manoj Tiwary vs Hyderabad in Kalyani in 2019-20. – Photo: Rajesh Kumar

**GHARAMI IN FIRST-CLASS CRICKET**

| | M | I | NO | Runs | HS | Ave | 100 | 50 | SR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| First-class | 38 | 63 | 5 | 2365 | 299 | 40.77 | 7 | 10 | 50.24 |
| FC 2025-26 | 8 | 12 | 0 | 651 | 299 | 54.25 | 2 | 3 | 52.79 |

**Kolkata:** Sudip Gharami suffered a typical 'so-near-yet-so-far' emotion, missing out on a 300-run mark by just one run against Andhra at the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal in Kalyani this week. Disappointed and dejected? Yes, he was, but the Bengal batter is not one who intends to brood about the issue.

"I was not playing for any milestone. My aim was to take Bengal to safety as that would ensure me another innings in the semifinal," he stated after his marathon innings helped Bengal advance and set up a Ranji semifinal clash with Jammu and Kashmir. At a time when cricketers grow up as a product of the IPL era, when being sassy and swashbuckling seems to be the leitmotif of their batting, the 26-year-old has marked a stunning departure from the trend. Against Andhra, Gharami stayed at the crease for two days, facing 586 balls (99.2 overs) and hitting 31 fours and six sixes. This was the longest innings of the decade so far in first-class cricket.

RANJI TROPHY

In doing so, Gharami also became the third batter and first Indian to get dismissed for 299 in first-class cricket, after New Zealand great Martin Crowe (in a Test match) and Mike Powell. Don Bradman (in Test) and Shantanu Sugwekar had remained unbeaten on the same score.

"This innings was very satisfying. We were 43/3 after losing our top three batters — Abhimanyu Easwaran, Sudip Chatterjee and Anushtup Majumder. Getting to 600 runs from there was pretty special," Gharami said. Son of a mason, Gharami has come up the hard way. Hailing from Naihati, 45km north of Kolkata, coach Debesh Chakraborty saw the spark in young Gharami as his cricketing journey began under him at the age of 11. Later he trained at different academies in Barasat, Kalyani, Ichapur before being picked for a second-division club at the Kolkata Maidan. Staying in a mud house fenced by bamboo, Gharami's parents sacrificed a lot to fulfil their son's passion.

Graduating through the ranks after playing for Bengal at Under-16, U-19 and U-23 levels, Gharami — a fan of Sachin Tendulkar — made his first-class debut for the state in the 2019-20 Ranji Trophy final against Saurashtra in Rajkot.

"I will say this boy has great batsmanship," former Bengal U-23 coach Sourasish Lahiri told **TOI**. "He reminds me of Manoj Tiwary. He has both aggression and a solid defence. He was the highest run-getter (more than 600 runs) in the national One-day championship at the U-23 level," Lahiri stated. The former Bengal spinner was impressed with the youngster's hunger to succeed.

# Ovtcharov eyes biggest Olympic TT medal haul

**German Looks To Go Past Ma Long's Record Of Six In LA**

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**Chennai:** Former world No. 1 paddler Dimitrij Ovtcharov, seeded second at the WTT Star Contender Chennai, remains driven and ambitious even at 37. A multiple Olympic medallist for Germany, Ovtcharov said that he still has a long way to go.

"It's the LA Olympics. It's the main goal that I'm seeing right now," he said. "I still love the game so much. I still feel that I can compete with everyone in the world, and as long as I have this feeling, I definitely want to keep pushing."

OVTCHAROV

With six Olympic medals already to his name, the German is now eyeing a seventh. "My goal is to win a medal at LA and get to seven, something that no other player so far has achieved." Chinese legend Ma Long has six, though all six are gold. Recalling one of the special moments of his career, Ovtcharov said: "Winning the World Cup final against Timo (Boll), those were absolutely incredible moments which will stay with me."

Ovtcharov defeated German master Boll 4-2, to win his first World Cup title in 2017. Turning his attention to the WTT Star Contender Chennai, Ovtcharov outlined his expectations from the tournament. "My goal is to make the final. That's why I came here with big ambitions. But there are many strong players here and it will definitely not be easy."

Talking about Indian table tennis and its rapid growth, the German star said: "I can see they are producing incredibly good results. They have many good players. I feel table tennis is getting bigger and bigger, and the players are getting very serious, practising hard and showing determination."

**Top seed in men's doubles out:** Manush Shah and Manav Thakkar were knocked out in the opening round by the French combination of Flavien Coton and Thibault Poret for 1-3 (10-12, 11-8, 5-11, 9-11). However, Manush and Diya Chitale booked their place in the quarterfinals of the mixed doubles after beating Korea's Oh Seunghwan and Kim Seongjin for 3-2 (10-12, 11-6, 12-10, 5-11, 12-10).

# Indian challenge in singles ends in Rd 2

Times News Network

**Chennai:** Indian challenge in the singles section at the Chennai Open Challenger came to an end on Thursday.

ATP CHENNAI OPEN

Sidharth Rawat and Sumit Nagal, who were the only two players remaining, failed to progress to the quarterfinals.

Rawat went down 2-6, 3-6 to Poland's Maks Kasnikowski, while Nagal lost 4-6, 6-7 (2), 3-6 to Petr Bar Biryukov. Nagal had a good chance to make quarters, but failed to make the most of his opportunities. Apart from a potent service game, Biryukov was not particularly threatening and relied on drop shots. At times, he looked restless and seemed to be hitting shots without much intent.

What Nagal had to do was to play longer rallies and wait for the opponent to make mistakes. Though the drop shots that let him down in the opening set, Biryukov continued to use them. In the decider, Nagal made a good comeback to level the scoreline (3-3), but he conceded the match.

# Tvesa ends winless run

**Bengaluru:** Tvesa Malik ended a winless run going back to more than two years as she emerged triumphant in a play-off against fellow Bengaluru golfer Anvitha Narender in the third leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour here on Thursday.

Tvesa, who began the final day one shot behind Anvitha, drew level on the fourth hole despite carding a bogey as Anvitha faltered with a double bogey there. Anvitha then dropped further shots on the sixth and eighth holes before recovering with a birdie on the ninth at the Oxford Golf Resort.

Tvesa, who held a one-shot advantage at the turn, stretched it to two with a birdie on the 11th. However, a double bogey on the 12th brought the contest back on level terms. Anvitha showed resilience, bouncing back from a bogey on the 13th with birdies on the 15th and 16th. Tvesa, too, birdied 15th to keep herself in contention.

The two players were once again level with two holes to go. Tvesa bogeyed the 17th to fall one behind as Anvitha parred. Tvesa needed a birdie on the 18th to force a play-off and she delivered as both players were tied at 1-over 217.

Tvesa's experience saw her hold her nerve in the play-off for a long-awaited win. Riya Jadon (74) was sole third. Amateur Aradhana Manikandan (72) and seasoned Vani Kapoor (72) were tied for fourth place. Mannat Brar (74) was sixth, while Ridhima Dilawari (75), Karishma Govind (74) and Shagun Narain (78) were tied for seventh place and Vidhatri Urs (74) rounded off the Top-10. **TNN**

# Aishwary beats Niraj in game of fine points

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AISHWARY (C), NIRAJ (L) AND BRONZE MEDALLIST AKHIL

**New Delhi:** When Aishwary Tomar took the last shot in the 50m men's Rifle 3 Position final, he was fractionally behind Niraj Kumar. Just 0.2 points separated the two at the top, effectively making the final shot the decider for the gold medal. Tomar kept his calm and banked on his experience to fire a 10.7 compared to Niraj's 10.3, securing the top place by the finest of margins.

The scenario at the Asian Rifle and Pistol Championships here was not new for Tomar. He was in the exact same situation during the 2025 Cairo Worlds final, only then, his role was reversed. Heading into the final shot in November, it was the 25-year-old Indian who was leading by 0.1 points against Yikun Liu of China. He wilted under pressure and hit 9.8 compared to the Chinese's 10.1 to lose the gold by 0.2 points. "It still hurts. You come so far and don't become world champion. That takes time to process," Aishwary reflected on that Cairo reverse after India took all three medals on offer on Thursday.

ASIAN SHOOTING

Aishwary bagged the gold at 362.0, a world record in an event in which the final was contested in a recently introduced format. Niraj settled for silver with 361.8, while Akhil Sheoran, who was eliminated before the final shot, won the bronze with 343.5. India also claimed the team gold with Japan and Kazakhstan winning silver and bronze respectively.

Aishwary later said he was under pressure to overtake the leader. "When you are behind, you have to shoot very well to catch up, so the pressure is high," he said. "There are many matches where Niraj and I are left till the end. So we are slowly learning how to handle that situation."

Niraj said he gave his all in the shot. "I gave my best. My position was stable and everything felt right. I can't really explain why I lost. Because of that, I got silver. But I thought it was a good shot. But I will still say that I need to work 200 per cent harder to handle pressure situations," the 26-year-old tried to explain the situation. Aishwary said that though he was disappointed about missing out on world championship gold, the silver gave him much-needed confidence. "Before that, I didn't have a medal at the World Championships. After winning it, I felt we could win at that level. It's equivalent to the Olympics. If you lose, you can use it as motivation — to go one step further in the next Worlds."

**TOPS support can help me do better: Niraj**

Niraj hopes that his show at the Asian Championship would help him return to sports ministry's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). Niraj said he stopped receiving benefits last year. "My performance was good last year too, but I was removed from the TOPS team. I don't get government support any more. I'm struggling," he said. "I used old ammunition from the Navy. That caused a lot of problems in training."

# AIFF closes door on Churchill's ISL move

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**Panaji:** Churchill Brothers FC were left in a state of uncertainty after the All India Football Federation (AIFF) executive committee decided against admitting the Goan side in the Indian Super League (ISL), which kicks off on Saturday. "There is no provision for a second team from the I-League to be promoted," a senior member who attended the meeting told **TOI** on Thursday. "There is no ambiguity with the (CAS) order. It's clear that the I-League champions, Inter Kashi in this case, have to be promoted to the ISL."

Churchill Bros owner Churchill Alemao and CEO Valanka Alemao, also an executive committee member, met AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey in the Capital last week and told him that they deserved to play in the top-tier ISL after being crowned I-League champions at the end of the league campaign. That decision, however, was later overturned by Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) who ruled in favour of Inter Kashi. Churchill said the CAS decision came as "shock and surprise to the entire football fraternity." The final order, the club said, is yet to be made available.

Following a request from three members, the AIFF convened a second meeting on Thursday after the first one was adjourned due to lack of quorum. "You cannot discount Churchill's contribution to Indian football. The club has been around for close to four decades and has major successes. But adding a team with just two days left for the league to kick off would make all of us a laughing stock," said another official.

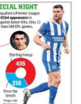
According to sources, Churchill's proposal officially found favour with only one of the 17 members who attended the executive committee meeting. An email with from LKK, Inter Kashi's legal team, which maintained that the "CAS award is fully enforceable and there is no legal reason to provisionally include Churchill in ISL," was shared with the members.

**MILNER'S SPECIAL NIGHT**

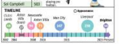
Brighton's **James Milner** equalled a Premier League record when he made his **653rd appearance** in Wednesday's 1-0 defeat against Aston Villa. Only 13 players have played more than 500 EPL games.

THE 500 CLUB

| | |
|---|---|
| James Milner* | 653 |
| Gareth Barry | 653 |
| Ryan Giggs | 632 |
| Frank Lampard | 609 |
| David James | 572 |
| Mark Schwarzer | 544 |
| Gary Speed | 535 |
| Emile Heskey | 516 |
| Jamie Carragher | 508 |
| Phil Neville | 505 |
| Rio Ferdinand | 504 |
| Steven Gerrard | 504 |
| Sol Campbell | 503 |




*Player still playing pro football




**City put pressure on Arsenal, Liverpool end Sunderland's home run**

**Manchester:** Manchester City beat Fulham 3-0 to close in on Arsenal at the top of the Premier League, as Liverpool inflicted Sunderland's first home defeat of the season to ease the pressure on Arne Slot. Third-placed Aston Villa moved closer to sealing their place in Champions League with a 1-0 win over Brighton.

City cruised with three goals in 15 first-half minutes to cut the gap at the top of the table to three points. Arsenal play Brentford on Thursday. Liverpool remain in sixth, but within two points of Chelsea, with an impressive 1-0 win at the Stadium of Light.

# Badminton reverts to 3x15 scoring format

**Change Proposed With Eye On Making The Sport More Engaging; BWF To Vote in April AGM**

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**Hyderabad:** Badminton is set to return to its old scoring format of 3x15 as the Badminton World Federation (BWF) council has agreed to it as the official format.

The new proposal will be put to vote at the BWF annual general meeting in Horsens, Denmark on April 25, 2026.

The current scoring system of 3x21 was introduced in 2006 with same rules for men and women capped at 30 points. Between 2002 and 2006, the 5x7 system (best-of-five games with seven points each) was implemented but scrapped due to extended match duration. Before 2002, it was best of three games of 15 points each for men and 11 points each for women. But at the 2004 Olympics 3x15 was only used. Before 2006 there was the service-over system, where players secured points only while serving.

The proposed system has already been part of the Alternative laws of badminton and was tested in selected national and Grade 3 tournament, including at the World junior championships in Guwahati last year.

BWF president Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul said, "After extensive testing and consultation, we believe the 3x15 scoring system provides a strong foundation for the sport's future," Khunying said in a release on Thursday.

Former world No.1 doubles player Satwiksairaj Rankireddy said that the new system will suit them, but he prefers the 21-point format. "For our playing style, the 15-point system will be advantageous as we play a fast-paced game. But I personally like the 21-point format. We play real badminton there. It is just like comparing Test and T20 cricket. Test cricket is what we love and enjoy more," Satwik told **TOI**.

The two-time World championships medallist felt that the Super-1000 and Super-750 should have 21 points. "We should retain the 21-point system Super-1000 and Super-750 tournaments and have 15-point for other events. But if there are changes, we have no option but follow," he added.

BWF's experiment started at the Mexican International challenge in May 2025.

**BACK IN TIME**

**Before 2002:** 3x15 matches for men; 3x11 for women (Service-over system)

**Between 2002 and 2006:** 5x7 format for men and women (Service-over system).

**After 2006:** 3x21 format for men and women.

**What BWF research says**

- More exciting and competitive
- Reduced game length creates more close-score situations.
- Players reach decisive endgame situations sooner.
- Proper pace will be maintained, more audience engagement.
- Reduced physical load, lower injury risk and longer careers.

# Argentina humble India 8-0

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**Rourkela:** It was doom and gloom here in Rourkela as the Indian men's hockey team went down to Argentina 0-8 in the FIH Pro League on Thursday.

After their defeat against Belgium in the opener, everyone had expected India to make a turnaround but it was a nightmare performance by the hosts as they conceded twice in the first quarter, five more in the second and one in the final minute that saw Argentina earn their biggest win against India. Tomas Domene (15th, 20th, 28th, 60th) scored a hat-trick while Tomas Ruiz (14th), Lucio Mendez (22nd), Ignacio Ibarra (25th) and Nicolas della Torre (30th) got once each.

PRO LEAGUE

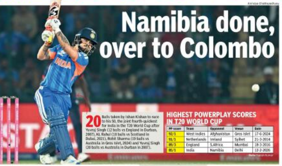
It was only the second time in the history of the game that India lost 0-8 with the other time being the 2010 Commonwealth Games final against Australia. Thursday's loss was also India's biggest defeat since the 7-0 drubbing by Australia at the Commonwealth Games final in Birmingham.

It's hard to put a finger on what exactly went wrong as the team just seemed lost on the field. They made mis-passes, failed to trap the balls, there was lack of communication and their structure went for a toss.

India's performance was so bad that after one point the home fans started cheering every time the the Argentines went on the attack. Earlier, India won a penalty stroke against the run of play when Aditya Arjun Lalage was fouled inside the D in the first quarter. However, Harmanpreet Singh failed to convert it. He got a second chance following a referral but was again saved by Argentine goalkeeper Tomas Santiago and it marked the start of the Argentine onslaught.

"AGE IS JUST A NUMBER BECAUSE EVEN AT 44 YEARS OLD, I CAN STILL COMPETE AT THIS LEVEL. I'M STILL HUNGRY. I'M A STRONG BELIEVER IN KEEPING MYSELF FIT. ALL THANKS TO THE PHYSIO."
—OMAN'S **Aamir Kaleem** IS THE OLDEST EVER TO PLAY IN A T20 WORLD CUP

Arindya Chattopadhyay



# Namibia done, over to Colombo

**20** Balls taken by Ishan Kishan to race to his 50, the joint fourth-quickest for India in the T20 World Cup after Yuvraj Singh (12 balls vs England in Durban, 2007), KL Rahul (18 balls vs Scotland in Dubai, 2021), Rohit Sharma (19 balls vs Australia in Gros Islet, 2024) and Yuvraj Singh (20 balls vs Australia in Durban in 2007).

**HIGHEST POWERPLAY SCORES IN T20 WORLD CUP**

| PP score | Team | Opponent | Venue | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 92/1 | West Indies | Afghanistan | Gros Islet | 17-6-2024 |
| 91/1 | Netherlands | Ireland | Sylhet | 21-3-2014 |
| 89/3 | England | S.Africa | Mumbai | 18-3-2016 |
| 85/1 | India | Namibia | Delhi | 12-2-2026 |

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

### Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya & Spinners Impress But Middle-Over Concerns Remain For Defending Champs India Despite Resounding 93-Run Win Over Minnows

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**New Delhi:** For a powerhouse team like India, matches against teams like Namibia are more about identifying chinks in their game. Namibia, a team made of mostly amateur cricketers, did expose some underlying concerns in the Indian team even as they spent most of the night at the Arun Jaitley Stadium being heavily outplayed.

India piled up a mammoth 209/9 batting first to register a comprehensive 93-run win. The bowlers restored normalcy after Namibia got off to a flyer in the chase, scoring 67/1 in the first seven overs to bowl out the minnows for 116. The bowlers just did what was expected of them.

But were they absolutely convincing with the bat against the so-called 'whipping boys' of this T20 World Cup? The answer won't be a resounding 'yes'. The Kotla pitch, having endured an unending cricket season since the last IPL, expectedly offered some grip and turn for the bowlers.

Barring Ishan Kishan's 24-ball 61 and Hardik Pandya's 28-ball 52, the overwhelming dominance expected against Namibia was missing.

This match was India's final preparation before the high-pressure game against Pakistan in Colombo on Sunday. Coming into the tournament, India's batting hinged largely on Abhishek Sharma's consistent assault on the new ball at the top of the game.

Since Abhishek missed Thursday's match due to weakness after a stomach illness, Sanju Samson wasted one more opportunity to reassure the team management. On the face of it, Samson's eight-ball 22 looks as if it fits the template of India's batting in the Powerplay. However, that he fell into the trap laid by the Namibians so easily will remain a concern.

Samson put away the two short balls from Ben Shikongo in the second over deep into the stands at the square-leg boundary with consummate ease. Shikongo offered another short delivery with a little more effort, only for Samson to miscue it to the hands of the deep mid-wicket fielder stationed for that one shot.

Ishan will need more support from the other end against a more seasoned Pakistan bowling on the evidently sluggish pitch at the Premadasa in Colombo. The team management revealed they have altered their attack-at-all-times approach and handed the anchor role to Tilak Varma at No. 3 and Suryakumar Yadav at No. 4 to control the middle overs. It seemed the duo got consumed by the idea.

As the pitch started to hold a little, Tilak and Surya almost happily went into their shells. The team that built its brand around not caring about risks suddenly showed symptoms of complete aversion to taking risks. Tilak's scratchy 21-ball 25-run innings came to an end when his first attempt to go big resulted in miscuing Namibia captain Gerhard Erasmus' slingy off-spin delivery to long-off.

Surya too was flummoxed by left-arm spinner Bernard Scholtz as he tried to step out and got comprehensively stumped by wicketkeeper Zane Green for an unconvincing 13-ball 12.

India scoring just 26 runs off Erasmus and losing two wickets in four overs may not be the ideal result keeping Pakistan's unconventional off-spinner Usman Tariq in mind.

It was Hardik's clean and straight hitting that got India rolling again after suffering a mini collapse from 104/1 to 124/4. It's over to Colombo now, where the pitches are different and Pakistan await.

**SCOREBOARD**

**India:** I Kishan c Shikongo b Erasmus 61, S Samson c Steenkamp b Shikongo 22, T Varma c Smit b Erasmus 25, S Yadav st Green b Scholtz 12, H Pandya c sub b Erasmus 52, S Dube run out 23, R Singh c Erasmus b Smit 1, A Patel b Erasmus 0, V Chakravarthy not out 1, Arshdeep Singh run out 2; **Extras (lb1, w9): 10; Total (9 wkts, 20 overs): 209; FoW:** 1-25, 2-104, 3-120, 4-124, 5-205, 6-205, 7-206, 8-206, 9-209. **Bowling:** Trumpelmann 4-0-38-0, Shikongo 3-0-41-1, Smit 4-0-50-1, Heingo 1-0-18-0, Erasmus 4-0-20-4, Scholtz 4-0-41-1

**Namibia:** L Steenkamp b Chakravarthy 29, J Frylinck c Dube b Arshdeep 22, Loftie-Eaton c Axar b Chakravarthy 13, G Erasmus c Varma b Axar 18, JJ Smit b Chakravarthy 0, Z Green hit wkt b Dube 11, M Kruger c J Bumrah b Axar 5, R Trumpelmann b Bumrah 6, B Scholtz c Axar b Pandya 4, B Shikongo, lbw b Pandya 0, M Heingo not out 0; **Extras (b 1, w 4, nb 3): 8; Total (10 wkts, 18.2 overs): 116; FoW:** 1-33, 2-67, 3-86, 4-86, 5-88, 6-94, 7-111, 8-116, 9-116, 10-116; **Bowling:** Pandya 4-0-21-2, Arshdeep 3-0-36-1, Dube 2.2-0-11-1, Bumrah 4-0-20-1, Chakravarthy 2-0-7-3, Axar 3-1-20-2.

**Result:** India won by 93 runs

**6.5** Overs taken by India to reach 100, the least overs taken by a team in the T20 WC, bettering the seven overs taken by Netherlands vs Ireland in Sylhet on March 21, 2014.

**4/20** Gerhard Erasmus' first four-wicket haul in T20Is is the best by a Namibia bowler in the T20 WC.

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# Sometimes you've got to throw stats out the window: Shai Hope

### West Indies Captain On Why He Kept Backing England Match Hero Rutherford

Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

"You can just watch him and see how special he is."
—Shai Hope | WI CAPTAIN

**Mumbai:** Modern-day T20 cricket, they say, is driven by numbers, data and match-ups. West Indies, however, chose instinct over analytics. They persisted with **Sherfane Rutherford**, not because of what the statistics said but because of the impact the big-hitting left-hander can have when in full flow.

Coming into the game with a modest T20I average of 22.14 and just five fifties in 48 matches, Rutherford repaid captain Shai Hope's faith in emphatic fashion. The explosive left-hander smashed a superb unbeaten 76 off 42 balls, studded with seven sixes, to power West Indies to a 30-run win over England in their Group C clash of the 2026 T20 World Cup at the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday.

"You can just watch him and see how special he is. Sometimes we've got to throw stats out of the window," Hope said. "You can look at a player and see the impact he has. If you ask any bowler in world cricket, when they see Sherfane Rutherford at the crease, they feel pressure. That speaks for itself. We don't need to focus too much on the numbers.

"I'm just happy to see him getting the success he deserves. He's been playing well, training hard, and it was only a matter of time before consistency followed," Hope added.

Rutherford's numbers may not yet scream elite, but his knock at the Wankhede combined momentum with maturity on a surface that offered grip and demanded patience. His innings provided both acceleration and stability at a crucial phase of the match.

Like many West Indies cricketers, Rutherford is a familiar face on the global franchise circuit. The 27-year-old has represented as many as 20 franchises, five of them in the IPL, and is set to turn out for his 27th when he joins the Mumbai Indians in IPL 2026.

Calling him a "hard worker", Hope praised Rutherford's preparation and discipline. "Sherfane has always been diligent with his preparation. If he's working on something, he'll bat from the start of the session till the end. That hasn't changed from when he first came into the team. It's nice to see hard work in the nets translate into success in the middle," Hope said. "He's a quality player. I'm sure the numbers will improve."

# Italy get slice of success

### Mosca Brothers, Kalugamage Script Team's First T20 WC Win

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**HISTORIC:** Italy's Anthony (left) and Justin Mosca in Mumbai

**1** Italy's win is their first in two T20 World Cup appearances. They had lost by 73 runs to Scotland in their first game at the Eden Gardens on Feb 9, 2026.

**2** Italy have become the second Associate team to record a win by 10 wickets in the T20 World Cup, the first being Oman vs PNG in Al Amerat on Oct 17, 2021.

"A proud footballing nation making its mark in cricket reminds us how beautifully the game is spreading across the globe."
— Sachin Tendulkar

**Mumbai:** Their famous football team, which won the World Cup four times, is now struggling to qualify for the quadrennial showpiece for the third time in succession. Meanwhile, Italy's cricket team, made up of immigrants, made the country proud at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday.

Dishing out some clinical cricket, Italy, in just their second match of the T20 World Cup, recorded their maiden win as they thrashed Nepal, who were disappointing after a promising performance against England, by 10 wickets.

Italy's crushing win silenced a large number of Nepal fans at the venue.

As soon as they ran the winning single, Italy's Mosca brothers, Justin and Anthony, who put together an unbeaten 124-run partnership in just 76 balls, screamed in joy and raised their arms in delight before exchanging a hug. Later, the Italian team acknowledged their supporters in the stadium as they soaked in an unforgettable moment for the T20 World Cup debutants.

Italy spinner Crishan Kalugamage, a fan of storied football club Inter Milan who makes pizzas in Lucca, bowled brilliantly to take 3/18 in four overs as Nepal could only manage 123 in 19.3 overs. Then Italy's opening pair, the Sydney-raised brothers, Justin (60 not out; 44b, 5x4, 3x6) and Anthony Mosca (62 not out; 32b, 6x6), galloped to the target in style, notching up half-centuries to seal victory with 44 balls to spare.

With two points in two matches and a net run rate of -0.352, Italy are third on the table, just behind Scotland, while England are fourth.

**Brief scores:** Italy 124/0 (A Mosca 62*, J Mosca 60*) beat Nepal 123 (Kalugamage 3-18) by 10 wickets.

# Brook admits Eng were 'too careful' in loss to WI

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**Mumbai:** For a team that reinvented its white-ball philosophy after the 2015 World Cup debacle, England appeared to slip back into conservative mode during their 30-run defeat to a more adventurous West Indies in their Group C clash at the Wankhede on Wednesday. After West Indies, unfazed by early wickets, powered their way to 196/6, England were bowled out for 166 in 19 overs, their batters tied down by the Windies spinners. England captain **Harry Brook** did not shy away from criticism, admitting his side had been "too careful" in their chase.

"We were probably a little bit careful, myself included," said Brook, who scored 17 off 14 balls before being caught and bowled by left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie (3/33). "I'd much rather be caught on the boundary than the way I got out today. That's part of T20 cricket. Motie was probably the main threat at the time, so I was trying to knock it into the leg side and get Sam back on strike."

The cautious approach was surprising given England's aggressive evolution under head coach Brendon McCullum. In Sept last year, they became the first team to cross 300 in T20Is, smashing 304/2 against South Africa in Manchester. Even in Tests, England have embraced the high-risk 'Bazball' philosophy.

For this match, England bolstered their batting depth by including allrounder Jamie Overton at No. 8 in place of specialist pacer Luke Wood. "With the power we have at the back end, myself included, I thought I could have taken a risk a little earlier knowing we still had Jacksy (Will Jacks) and Jamie to come," Brook admitted. "With that depth, we believe we can chase almost anything. Obviously today, we didn't."

Dew is often a decisive factor at the Wankhede, prompting teams to prefer chasing. However, its absence allowed the West Indies spinners to disrupt England's plans.

# Lanka knock wind out of Oman's sails

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Lanka's Pavan Rathnayake celebrates with Kusal Mendis after scoring a fifty

Sri Lanka produced a dominant allround performance to crush Oman by 105 runs in Pallekele. Sri Lanka posted 225/5, their second-highest total in T20 World Cup history, before bundling the chase out of contention long before the finish.

After Kamil Mishara and Pathum Nissanka fell inside the Powerplay, Kusal Mendis took charge with a fluent 61 off 45 balls. He anchored the innings, threading seven boundaries and ensuring momentum never dipped.

Sri Lanka's real acceleration came in the middle overs. Pavan Rathnayake blazed 60 from 28 deliveries, peppering eight fours and a six. Captain Dasun Shanaka then delivered a sensational cameo, a 20-ball 50 (2x4, 5x6), the quickest T20I half-century by a Sri Lankan. By the time he departed in the 19th over, Oman's bowlers were reeling.

Kamindu Mendis applied the finishing gloss with an unbeaten 19 from seven as Sri Lanka surged past the 220-run mark. For Oman, left-arm quick Shah Faisal briefly impressed, conceding just 11 from his first three overs before an expensive final over distorted otherwise tidy figures.

In response, Oman's innings never gained momentum. Aamir Kaleem and captain Jatinder Singh fell inside the first over, and the innings struggled to recover from 12/2. Dushmantha Chameera's (2/19) pace and Maheesh Theekshana's guile – the spinner returning with figures of 2/11 – ensured Oman remained pinned.

Wasim Ali's 27 offered fleeting resistance, but wickets fell in clusters. Mohammad Nadeem stood firm with an unbeaten 53 off 66 balls.

**Brief Scores:** Sri Lanka 225/5 (Mendis 61, Rathnayake 60) beat Oman 120/9 (Nadeem 53*, Theekshana 2-11, Chameera 2-19) by 105 runs.

**105** Runs, Sri Lanka's victory margin, their second biggest in terms of runs in the T20 WC behind the 172-run victory vs Kenya in Johannesburg on Sept 14, 2007.

**225/5** Sri Lanka have recorded their second-highest total in T20Is behind the 260/6 in a T20 WC fixture vs Kenya in Johannesburg on Sept 14, 2007.

# Marsh to sit out again?

**Colombo:** Skipper Mitchell Marsh's fitness will be watched closely as an injury-hit Australia try to ward off a tricky Zimbabwe and move closer to the Super 8s in a Group B match of the T20 World Cup here on Friday.

Marsh missed his side's big win over Ireland on Wednesday with an internal testicular bleeding and, according to Cricket Australia, the allrounder will require a considerable period of rest before returning to action.

Steve Smith has joined the squad as his cover, but the absence of Marsh was not felt in Australia's 67-run romp here as they produced an allround effort against the Irish.

Without any of the batters making a fifty, they posted a strong 180-plus total before pacer Nathan Ellis and leg-spinner Adam Zampa shared eight wickets among them to give their side two full points.

But the Aussies would like to better that effort against Zimbabwe, with some heavy runs from opener Travis Head and Glenn Maxwell in the middle overs. It's a pre-requisite for the Aussies if Marsh indeed is going to be absent partially or even fully for the rest of this ICC showpiece.

Zimbabwe have pacers like Brad Evans, Blessing Muzarabani and Richard Ngarava who can test the strongest batters on their day. PTI

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| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AUS | W | L | L | L | NR |
| ZIM | W | L | L | W | L |

**VENUE:** COLOMBO

WEATHER 23°C

ODDS

| AUS | ZIM |
|---|---|
| 1/10 | 8/1 |

# Desperately seeking the Rashid Khan of old

### Afghanistan Captain & Leggie's Decision Not To Bowl In Any Of The Two Super Overs In The Defeat To SA Was Perplexing, Especially Since It Was A Spinner, Keshav Maharaj, Who Got The Job Done For The Winners...

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There are some defeats that can crush you. For Afghanistan, it was one such afternoon in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

The double Super Over loss to South Africa, that has all but ended the team's T20 World Cup campaign, may seem the end of the world for now. But Afghanistan should take heart from the fact that it was their famed fighting spirit, so intrinsic to their cricket, that kept them in the game against all odds.

It's not that Afghanistan haven't endured heartbreaking losses before. The 2023 ODI World Cup defeat to Australia following Glenn Maxwell's superheroics at the Wankhede probably cost them a place in the semifinals. The 2024 T20 World Cup semifinal defeat to South Africa was more sobering, but in this defeat, there was hardly anything that the Afghans could have done differently. Maybe just one thing — their choice of bowler in at least one of the Super Overs. Rashid Khan, their talisman for years and still considered one of the best in T20 cricket, chose to intriguingly keep himself away from the action.

Rashid is somebody who used to bowl in the Powerplay for fun. However, in both losses in this World Cup, the superstar didn't bowl in the first six overs. His decision to avoid the pressure cooker of a Super Over was slightly baffling, more so since South Africa opted for Keshav Maharaj in the second Super Over.

Rashid, who has presented Afghanistan with many memorable moments, wasn't asked why he kept himself away. Nor was coach Jonathan Trott made to face the question, but it remains to be asked, is Rashid still the bowler he used to be?

The question is pertinent because the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad is a ground that the bowler knows like the back of his palm. Rashid plays for Gujarat Titans in the IPL and has immense experience of Indian conditions. He took 2-28 during the South African chase and was Afghanistan's most economical bowler during the 20 overs. And most importantly, no other bowler in his team generates the fear factor that he does.

Yet Azmatullah Omarzai was asked to bowl the second Super Over and the 24 the medium-pacer conceded really made the task immensely difficult. But one player who still made a fight out of it was Rahmanullah Gurbaz.

The three sixes that Gurbaz hit off Maharaj showed his strength of character as it followed his 42-ball 84 during Afghanistan's chase.

AFP

The 24-year-old has been the lynchpin of the Afghan batting lineup for a while now.

Coach Trott felt that the kind of talent Gurbaz has, he should come up with more such performances.

"It's probably the best innings I've seen him play and it's unfortunate he couldn't get us over the line. With the amount of talent, physique, sporting ability and natural hand-eye co-ordination that he has, it's about going forward for him now.

"He wears his heart on his sleeve and over the years, I have just tried to get him to be a little more consistent in everything that he does," Trott said.

With time, it will be interesting to see if Gurbaz gets more responsibility, taking the baton from Rashid and turning Afghanistan into a team that deals with the crunch moments a little bit better.

### AFGHANISTAN'S NABI SANCTIONED FOR CODE OF CONDUCT BREACH

**Ahmedabad:** Afghanistan allrounder Mohammad Nabi has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee for breaching Level 1 of the ICC code of conduct during their T20 World Cup Group D match against South Africa on Wednesday. Nabi was found to have breached Article 2.4 of the code, which relates to "disobeying an umpire's instruction during an international match". Nabi engaged with the umpires over a wristband worn by pacer Lungi Ngidi. AFP

Nabi (left) argues with the umpire during the SA game

## SNAP SHOTS

### Humpy for Norway Chess

Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy is set for her third outing at the prestigious Norway Chess Women's tournament, scheduled to be held from May 25 to June 5. A two-time world rapid champion, the 38-year-old Humpy is among the three Indian women who have qualified for the Candidates Tournament to decide the challenger for the world championship later this year.

**Balsoya opens up lead:** Honey Baisoya carded the day's best score of six-under 64 to open up a commanding five-shot lead at the end of round three of the DP World Players Championship being played at the Qutab Golf Course in Delhi on Thursday. Baisoya (63-65-64) took his 54-hole total to 18-under 192. Jamal Hossain (65-54-68) gained one spot after scoring a 68 on day three, moving into second position at 13-under 197.

**India colts defeated:** The India U-17 men's team lost 1-6 to Turkiye in their second friendly match against the hosts at the Manavgat Ataturk Stadyumu in Manavgat, Antalya, on Thursday. India had lost 0-1 in the first friendly on Tuesday.

**WC ticket prices skyrocket on FIFA re-sale site:** Ticket prices for the 2026 World Cup have skyrocketed on FIFA's official resale platform, with seats for many matches listed at several times their face value even though most tickets have only recently been distributed following the end of the main sales phase in January. Weeks after FIFA President Gianni Infantino warned that tickets made available on resale sites were likely to come with an exorbitant price tag, those fears have come to pass on world football's own platform.

**Wawrinka wins:** Swiss veteran Stan Wawrinka added another highlight to his farewell season by overcoming a 23-year age gap in a 6-3, 6-4 win over 17-year-old Thijs Boogaard in first round of Rotterdam Open on Wednesday. The 40-year-old's match against Dutch lucky loser Boogaard featured the second-largest age gap in ATP Tour and Grand Slam history. Dominic Thiem was 18 when he beat 44-year-old Thomas Muster in Vienna in 2011.

**Tuchel extends contract:** Thomas Tuchel has signed a new contract that will see him remain head coach of the England national football team through to the end of Euro 2028 in the UK and Ireland, the Football Association announced on Thursday. Tuchel was confirmed as the successor to Gareth Southgate in October 2024 and has overseen an unbeaten qualification run to this year's World Cup in North America, with England winning all eight group games under their German boss.

**Enrich prevails:** Mallesh Narredu-trained Enrich — ridden by Yash Narredu — won the Bangalore Turf Club Trophy, the feature event of the Mumbai races on Thursday.

# BACK ON HOME TURF

### Fans Set To Cheer Again As Chinnaswamy Set To Reopen; RCB Likely To Host IPL Season Opener

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Pics: Syed Asif & TOI

**IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION:** Santosh Menon (left), Vinay Mruthyunjaya, Venkatesh Prasad with police chief Seemant Kumar Singh

**Bengaluru:** The once-deafening roar inside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium fell silent after the tragic loss of 11 lives outside its premises on June 4 last year. What was meant to be a celebratory IPL victory parade for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) turned into a tragedy that the city continues to remember and mourn.

Competitive cricket at the venue came to a halt thereafter, with the government refusing permission for matches. For more than eight months, Bengaluru's cricket faithful have been starved of top-level action, with several major events shifted out of the city, including last year's Women's ODI World Cup opener and final.

The issue also became a key talking point during the fiercely contested Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) elections last year.

With the state cabinet finally giving the green signal for the resumption of cricket at the stadium on Thursday, KSCA officials, the RCB management, fans and cricket lovers across the city would have breathed a collective sigh of relief.

Earlier in the day, stakeholders, including RCB officials, held a two-hour meeting with the home department, and it is learnt that the government-appointed committee expressed satisfaction with the progress of work undertaken at the stadium.

It is reliably learnt that the government has capped the stadium's seating capacity at 35,000 for now. While RCB officials remained unavailable for comment, it is learned that, as defending champions, they are likely to host the season opener at their home base next month.

**SHORT-TERM MEASURES - DEADLINE MAR 15**

- Reduction in the number of gates around the stadium
- Widening of entry and exit gates
- Creation of large holding areas at multiple points
- Dedicated holding area for ambulances and fire engines
- Doctors and triage facilities
- One-level access at ground level across the stadium
- Improved access on Link Road through the removal of concrete blocks and installation of gates to be opened only on match days

"...The KSCA has already complied with some of the [Justice D'Cunha] recommendations. Now that IPL is coming, RCB wants to host the inaugural match in Bengaluru.

**G Parameshwara** | STATE HOME MINISTER

A visibly relieved KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad expressed gratitude to the authorities. "We at KSCA are extremely grateful to the government. Home minister G Parameshwara, the government-appointed committee headed by Maheshwar Rao, and city police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh have guided us thoroughly and shown faith in our abilities," Prasad told TOI.

Since being elected on Dec 7, Prasad and his team have worked intensively to meet the government's safety and infrastructure requirements.

Acknowledging the collective effort, the former Indian pacer said, "All the office-bearers and managing committee members have worked hard to make this happen. Secretary Santosh Menon and our official spokesperson Vinay Mruthyunjaya brought their experience and expertise to ensure we delivered on what we promised during the elections."

Prasad also stressed the association's commitment to improving the fan experience. "We owe this to the cricket fans of Karnataka, who missed major events like the ICC Women's World Cup last year. Along with meeting government requirements, we will work towards making the matchday experience better for spectators."

**Metro ride with match tickets**

One of the major concerns highlighted by the Justice D'Cunha panel was the lack of adequate parking facilities around the centrally located stadium — a challenge typical of many urban venues. To ease matchday traffic congestion, KSCA has partnered with the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). Match tickets will now carry a barcode that doubles as a metro travel pass on game days.

"We are partnering with BMRCL to facilitate metro rides during matches. That should considerably ease congestion," KSCA secretary Santosh Menon said. "Except for official vehicles and VIP access, there will be no entry gates near the stadium's main gate. We also want to ensure our members, especially senior citizens, have a comfortable experience without inconvenience," Menon added.

# All-round Aaron shines for Bhagirathi

**Bengaluru:** Aaron Joseph's all-round show was the highlight of Bhagirathi Group's six-wicket victory against ADE Sports Club in the KSCA Group II (Div II) tournament here recently.

Batting first, ADE were restricted to 138/6, with Aaron returning 2 for 18. Bhagirathi Group overhauled the target with 13 balls to spare. Aaron struck a fluent 62-ball 54 (6x4) to power his team. Aadharsh SJ chipped in with a handy 34.

**Brief scores: ADE Sports Club 138/6 in 20 overs** (Shabahat Hassain 41, Prakash KM 32; Aaron Joseph 2-18) **lost to Bhagirathi Group: 140/4 in 17.5 overs** (Aaron Joseph 54, Aadharsh SJ 34; Sonu Kumar 2-30). **Karnataka State Police CC: 150/4 in 20 overs** (Madhusudan 63, Rakesh MR 40, Dattapeer B 32; Somashekara Murthy KS 4-18) **lost to Deccan Herald & Prajavani SC: 109/7 in 20 overs** (Syed Mainuddin Nadeed 27n.o; Adithya 2-18, Siddarameshwara HM 2-11). **EPF Sports RO: 141/8 in 20 overs** (Nishanth Y 56, Venkata Rao 32; James Prasanna Kumar 4-21) **lost to BDSA, South Western Railway, Bengaluru: 142/5 in 18.3 overs** (Vijay Kumar 41, Varun K 28, Alim Yadav 29n.o). **BHEL EDN SC: 154/9 in 20 overs** (Praveen Pattar 65, Sanay Kanchi 3-34, Anand Kumar 2-34) **bt LRDE SC: 154/8 in 20 overs** (Vishwa H 49, Sunny Kanchi 43, Mahesh Acharya 2-44, Sanil BB 2-34). **Super over: LRDE Sports Club : 10/2 in 0.5 over lost to BHEL EDN Sports Club : 15 for no loss in 0.4 over. Railway Institute, Krishnarajapuram: 149/6 in 20 overs** (Likith Gowda 26, Manjunath 58, Shreedhar MA 3-25) **bt Karnataka Government Secretariat Club: 131/7 in 20 overs** (Abhishek J 69; Sitaram Meena 2-26, Naveen Krishna P 2-17). **Bangalore Dairy SC: 101 all out in 17.4 overs** (Dinesh S 20; Naresh UK 3-15, Ashish Kumar 4-16, Aman Kush 3-5) **lost to Indian Air Force, Jalahalli : 107/3 in 14.4 overs** (Ajay Choudhary 42n.o; Kumar Raj D 2-20). **BEMRC Cricket: 176/5 in 20 overs** (Sudeep Reddy 58, Srinivas MK 74; Ramesh M 2-42, Chandrashekara MP 3-30) **bt BHEL EPD CSBD: 123/7 in 20 overs** (M Basavaraj 48, Harish R 3-12). **Triton Sports Club, Mysuru: 182/6 in 20 overs** (Yashwanth Patel 70, Srithan V 63; Thejas L 2-36) **bt Continental Automotive CC: 174/6 in 20 overs** (Krishnamurthy T 36, Karthik J 55; Ishaan S 3-29, Naveen Kumar 2-18). **Titan Company Ltd CC: 187/4 in 20 overs** (Mohith BA 93, Sarabhith BM 40; Sharath Srinivas 2-25) **bt Bosch Sports Club, Bengaluru: 184/5 in 20 overs** (Srirangaratha Rao M 47, Srikanth D N 68; Velmurugan M 2-25). **ITC Sports Club: 102 all out in 17.3 overs** (Hemanth TR 44; Mahaboobsab Chowdari 3-9, Manjunath MR 3-11, K Raghavendra 2-22) **lost to HAL Staff Club: 104/4 in 16.4 overs** (Umesh KR 58, N Balaji 26; Nishanth Gopal 2-19, Chandrashekar R 2-21). **ABB CC: 83/9 in 20 overs** (Girish J 2-21, Roshan Raja 3-4) **lost to BEML (3) Sports Club, Mysuru: 84/1 in 6.2 overs** (Swayam Urs V 44, Aakash Urs 26n.o). **BEL Sports Club: 213/7 in 20 overs** (Gautham Reddy 28, Amar Kumar 55, Barath C 49, Nikhilesh Thakur 62; Rajesh SB 2-30) **bt Advocats Association CC: 157/5 in 20 overs** (Kaushik L 78n.o, R Jagadish 27; Gautham Reddy 2-23, Barath C 2-26). **Secretariat CC: 132 all out in 18.3 overs** (Karan 57, Pavan Shetti S 4-13, Kiran E 2-23, Raghu V 2-24) **lost to Bosch Sports Club, Naganathapura: 133/5 in 17.4 overs** (Nischal Gopanal 52; Pankaj Gowda 28; Karan 2-22). **SWR Rail Club, Bengaluru: 77 all out in 18.5 overs** (M Shankar 3-11, Raghuram KM 2-13) **lost to BOMP: 80/2 in 8.4 overs** (Nagarjan TM 26n.o; Rajesh N 31). **GTRE Sports Club: 98 all out in 19.3 overs** (Sharath Yadav 35; Rohan Ravi 3-8, Rishab Navrathan 2-8, Gattoola Sekhar 2-15) **lost to LIC Sports Club: 101/5 in 17 overs** (Karan U 32). **BEML Sports Club, KGF: 74 all out in 15.5 overs** (Romero CD 25; E Murugan 3-5, Yashwantha 2-11, Rakshith K 2-9, Aravind M 2-9) **lost to Bangalore Telephones CC: 75/1 in 9.2 overs** (Vikram 38n.o). **SWR Central Workshop, Mysuru: 180/6 in 20 overs** (Srinidhi V 48, Pralanjal Magoska 33; Gagan D 2-47, Shreyank Sagar 2-33) **bt VISL CC, Bhadravathi: 134 all out in 19.2 overs** (Srinivas Tattehalli 49, Tanmay M 23; Shashank HC 2-23, Bilal Ali 4-29, Mehdi N 2-19).

### Over 1k athletes dropped from Khelo India

**New Delhi:** Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday revealed that 1342 athletes in various disciplines have been weeded out of the Khelo India programme in the last three years for not measuring up in performance and doping violations. In his reply to a question in Rajya Sabha seeking details of the performance of the athletes enrolled into the programme, the minister stated 2905 fresh names have been inducted into the flagship scheme during the same period. PTI

# World 10K Bengaluru Set for Apr 26

Times News Network

ATHLETICS

Syed Asif

**ALL SET:** (from left) Sunil Deshpande, regional head, TCS, Bengaluru, Randeep D IAS, secretary, rural development & panchayat raj, Sandeep Patil, IG Karnataka and Seemanth Kumar Singh, city police commissioner in Bengaluru on Thursday

**Bengaluru:** The 18th edition of the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) World 10K Bengaluru will be held on April 26, Procam International announced on Thursday. The launch event had a vibrant atmosphere, with participants from diverse walks of life united by their shared passion for running.

Registrations for all race categories — Open 10K, Majja Run (4.2km), Senior Citizens Run, and Champions with Disability (3km) — will be open from February 13 to March 20 at the official race website. Registration for the virtual run will close on April 20.

For the first time, entries to the Open 10K category will be accepted only from participants who submit a valid timing certificate.

"The registration launch of the 18th edition of the TCS World 10K Bengaluru is a humbling moment for us. It reflects how the world's premier 10K has grown into a powerful community movement. Over the years, the race has demonstrated the transformative power of sport, delivering a positive socio-economic and health impact valued at Rs 202.43 crore for the 2025 edition alone," said Vivek Singh, Joint MD, Procam International. He also thanked the Karnataka government for its continued support.

Procam International, in collaboration with the Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Bengaluru, has documented the broader social, health and economic impact of the 2025 edition. The report was unveiled at the event.

Sunil Deshpande, Regional Head, TCS Bengaluru, highlighted how the race has evolved beyond sport. "The TCS World 10K Bengaluru continues to showcase the city's drive to exceed expectations and unite for a larger purpose. Over the past 15 years, it has grown into a celebrated community event rooted in fitness, inclusion and support for meaningful causes. The run generates positive socio-economic impact — from promoting preventive health to supporting philanthropic initiatives across the city," he said.

The World Athletics Gold Label race annually attracts elite runners from India and abroad, and a strong international field is expected again for the 2026 edition.

### Cavaliers thump Wizards

Sam Merrill scored a career-high 32 points and made nine 3-pointers, and Donovan Mitchell had 30 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers led from wire to wire in a 138-113 victory over the visiting Washington Wizards on Wednesday night.

James Harden posted 13 points and 11 assists in his home debut for Cleveland, which won its fifth straight and is 10-1 since Jan. 21 to move into fourth place in the Eastern Conference. Jarrett Allen added 21 points and made all eight of his field-goal attempts.

Merrill was 9-for-4 shooting, including seven 3-pointers, and made his only free throw in a 26-point first-half explosion. AGENCIES

# K'taka ease past Odisha

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

WOMEN'S ONE DAY

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka's top-order, led by skipper Shubha Satheesh (90; 10b; 8x4; 1x6), came good as Karnataka continued with their fine run in the BCCI senior women's One Day Trophy in Rajkot on Thursday; they registered a 92-run victory against Odisha to remain unbeaten in the league and move closer to a knockout berth.

Chasing Karnataka's competitive score of 326/7, Odisha mustered 234/9 in 50 overs. Odisha, who opted to bowl, were left ruing their decision after Shubha and Shishra Gowda (49) put up a fine 113-run opening stand.

Niki Prasad then upped the tempo with a 52-ball 79, while wicketkeeper-batter Soumya Verma joined the party, scoring a quickfire 58 (48b; 9x4).

The Odisha top-order too gave a good account of themselves with patient knocks. At 200/3 in 36.5 overs, it seemed like they would give Karnataka a run for their money, but they unravelled.

Spinner Rajeshwari was the pick among the Karnataka bowlers, returning 3 for 29, while BG Tejashwini accounted for two wickets to ensure Karnataka stretched their unbeaten run to four matches.

**Brief scores: Karnataka: 326/7 in 50 overs** (Shubha Satheesh 90, Shishra Gowda 49, Niki Prasad 79, Soumya Verma 58; Jyoti Prasad 3-68) **bt Odisha: 234/9 in 50 overs** (Madhuri Mehata 73, Tanmayee Behera 33, Sarita 58; Rajeshwari Gayakwad 3-29, BG Tejashwini 2-30).

# Karnataka concede lead

Karnataka conceded the first innings lead in their drawn contest against Andhra in the South Zone U-14 cricket tournament in Vizianagaram on Thursday. Karnataka, who started the second and final day at 130/1, were outdone by Rakshan Sai (6-45). They suffered a dramatic collapse, losing seven wickets for the addition of 18 runs.

Karnataka's Pavandeep Bharadakane added 36 runs to his overnight score before being dismissed on 92 (16x4). Karnataka were bundled out for 228 runs, two runs short of Andhra's first innings score.

**Brief scores: Andhra: 230 & 183/2 in 26 overs** (Raj 44, PVSR Varma 50 n.o) **drew with Karnataka: 228 all out in 58.4 overs** (Pavandeep R Bharadakane 92, Athreya Dhiri 29; Rakshan Sai 6-45, Shakti Iman 2-45). TNN

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**Former PM Imran Khan, in a medical report given to SC, claims he has only 15% vision left in his right eye, Pak media reports**

**Shri Siddaramaiah**
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources,
River Development &
Ganga Rejuvenation

International Conference on Dam Safety-2026
Safe & Secure dams-
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**Shri C. R. Patil**
Hon'ble Union Minister
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Hon'ble Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Railways

**Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary**
Hon'ble Union Minister of State in Ministry of Jal Shakti

**Ku. Shobha Karandlaje**
Hon'ble Minister for State, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Labour & Employment & Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bengaluru North Constituency

**Shri N. S. Boseraju**
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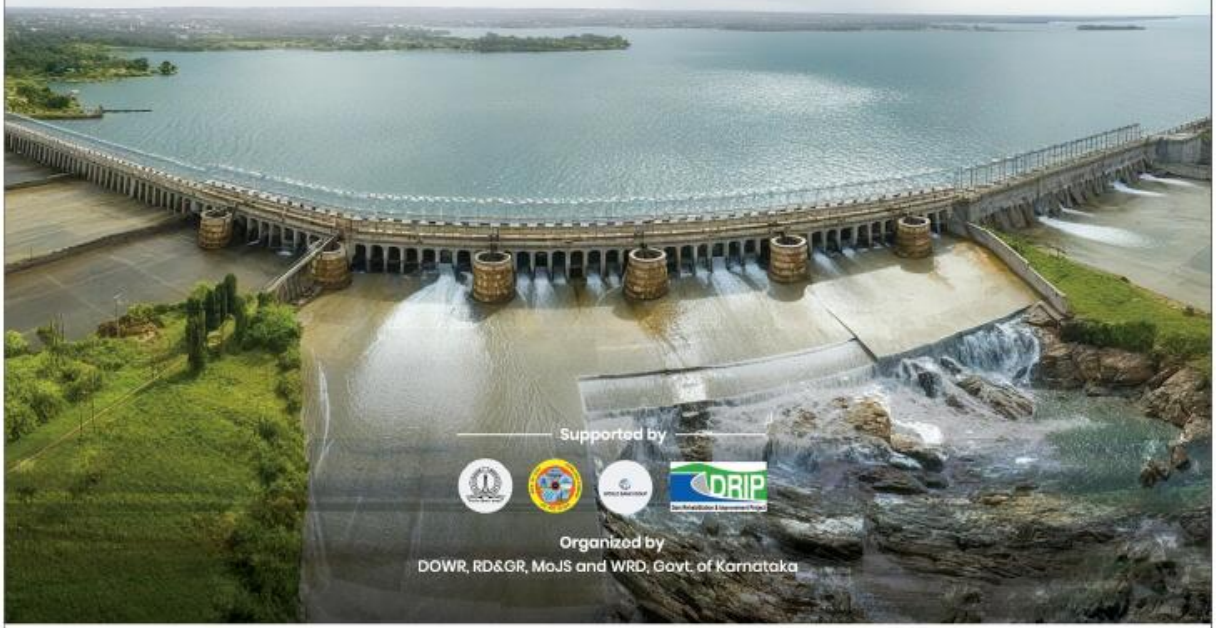

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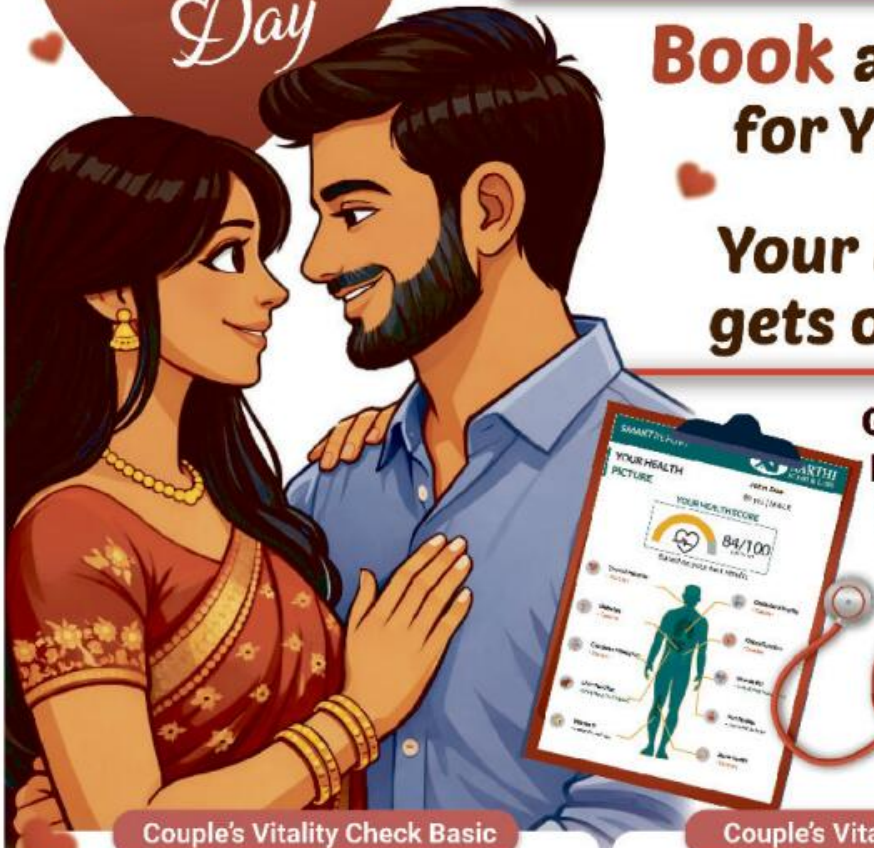


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ISHAN KISHAN HITS A 24-BALL 61 TO GUIDE INDIA TO 209-9 AGAINST NAMIBIA, WIN BY 93 RUNS IN T20 WC MATCH. HISTORIC WIN FOR ITALY AS IT STUNS NEPAL BY 10 WKTS 23

# Khaleda's BNP heads for big win in B'desh, Jamaat lags

## Nears Tally Of 175/300 Seats; 47% Turnout

**Ahsan Tasnim**

**Dhaka:** Tarique Rahman-led BNP was cruising to the halfway mark of 150 — winning 128 of the 300 parliamentary seats and leading in 55 more — leaving behind rival Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh's largest Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami, on Thursday, as counting was under way after Bangladesh voted in the first national election since the 2024 'July Uprising' ousted long-time PM Sheikh Hasina. The turnout, however, was just 47%.

By midnight, it had taken an unassailable lead over the hardline anti-India Jamaat and its allies — trailing with 38 seats — in the contest to elect a new govt to replace the Muhammad Yunus-led interim govt. Yunus took charge after the collapse of the Hasina-led Awami League dispensation — a party banned from contesting the poll and its symbol, the boat, missing from ballot papers for the first time in 30 years.

BNP chief Tarique Rahman is the leading PM contender while Jamaat-e-Islami led by Shafiqur Rahman is the other big party in the fray

BNP chairman Rahman, who has won from both constituencies he contested — Bogra and Dhaka-17 — would likely take over as the next PM: an outcome that India can live with. BNP, which was distinguished by its unfriendly position towards India because of its arch-rival Awami League's friendly disposition towards New Delhi, however, has mellowed down hostility.

India opened a channel with BNP with the presence of external affairs minister S Jaishankar at the funeral of former PM Khaleda Zia last year in Dhaka.

▶ Voting percentage, P 21

## Hindu tea garden worker found bound, murdered

**Dhaka:** The bloodied body of a young Hindu tea garden worker — his hands and legs tied with ropes — was found in Kamalganj upazila in northeast Bangladesh on Wednesday, a day before polling, reports **Ahsan Tasnim.** Rajan Shuvo Kar was the second Hindu to be killed since Monday amid a series of attacks on members of the minority community since the Sheikh Hasina govt's fall in 2024.

Police recovered the body of the 28-year-old from a tea garden in Moulvibazar, around 200km from Dhaka. Some locals speculated about possible links of the killing with elections, though no evidence was found in this regard, police said.

▶ '15 targeted murders', P 21

## Rowdy murder: BJP MLA held at B'luru airport

**Bengaluru:** Nearly seven months after a 40-year-old rowdy-sheeter was hacked to death near Ulsoor Lake here, CID on Thursday arrested KR Pura BJP legislator BA Basavaraja and an advocate identified as Ajit for their alleged role in the murder.

The two were arrested at Kempegowda International Airport around 6.30 pm upon their arrival from Ahmedabad and were later brought under tight security to the CID headquarters on Palace Road here.

"We will produce the two accused persons, Basavaraja, accused No. 5, and Ajit, accused No. 20, in court tomorrow," a senior police officer said. Rowdy-sheeter Bikku Shiva was hacked to death by an armed gang on July 15. TNN

▶ Rivalry key reason, P 5

# After K'taka cabinet nod, cricket set to return to Chinnaswamy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Cricket is finally set to return to M Chinnaswamy Stadium with IPL matches.

The state cabinet Thursday approved resumption of matches, following a recommendation from the govt-appointed expert committee headed by Maheshwar Rao, the chief of Greater Bengaluru Authority.

Govt approval comes after a conditional nod from the home department on Jan 17.

"Keeping in mind the D'Cunha Committee report and the recommendations of the expert committee, the home department will issue a detailed order outlining the conditions that KSCA must meet," law minister H K Patil said after the cabinet meeting.

Govt green light now paves the way for defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to host their Indian Premier League (IPL) matches at the city venue.

State govt had earlier barred Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) from staging matches at Chinnaswamy Stadium after 11 fans lost their lives in a stampede outside the venue on June 4, 2025, during RCB's IPL victory celebrations.

IPL is expected to begin on March 26. Traditionally the defending champions host both, the opening ceremony and the first match of the season.

Earlier in the day home minister G Parameshwara held a two-hour meeting with KSCA, RCB and officials of govt-appointed panel. It is learnt that the Rao-led committee expressed satisfaction with the progress made on safety, security and infrastructure upgrades at the stadium.

The Justice D'Cunha Committee had recommended 17 safety measures at the stadium, classified into short-term and long-term requirements, with March 15 set as the deadline.

**8-MONTH WAIT**

**June 4, 2025** | Stampede during RCB's IPL victory claimed 11 lives outside the stadium
**June 5** | D'Cunha panel formed
**July 24** | Govt accepted report
**Aug 18** | Police asked KSCA to fulfil 17 safety requirements
**Dec 11** | KSCA chief Venkatesh Prasad & team met CM, DCM
**Feb 12, '26** | Cabinet nod to resume cricket at the stadium

> This is great news for cricket fans
> **Venkatesh Prasad** | KSCA president

## SC warns Jairam of exemplary cost

"We know the design behind this. Be ready for exemplary cost," SC's CJI Surya Kant-led bench told Congress MP Jairam Ramesh on Thursday. SC asked how he was challenging the apex court's judgment regularising retrospective environment clearance for public projects, by challenging Centre's office memorandum, through a writ petition. P 14

## Stuck in mud pit all night, UP biker dies

In a repeat of the Delhi pit death, a 25-year-old man remained trapped overnight after his bike fell into a mud-filled ditch on a deserted road in Kanpur Dehat, and later died in hospital Wednesday. Dhirendra Kumar was stuck in the cold, and was covered in mud when he was noticed by some farmers around 8am. P 18

## Return or say you won't: HC to Mallya

Bombay HC, as a "last chance", asked Vijay Mallya to inform the court when he intends to return to India. It reiterated that Mallya ought to return to India, or could file an affidavit to state, "I won't come back", to enable the HC to pass orders. Inside Flap

## Caste doesn't change after conversion: HC

Allahabad HC ruled that caste remains unchanged after conversion or inter-caste marriage, dismissing a plea by 9 accused in an SC/ST Act case. It rejected their claim that the complainant lost her Scheduled Caste status after marrying outside her community. Inside Flap

# ₹262cr for Andhra student killed by Seattle police car, 2 days after dad's death

**Vema.Lanka@timesofindia.com**

**Vijayawada:** Nearly three years after 23-year-old Andhra Pradesh student Jaahnavi Kandula was killed after being hit by a police car in Seattle and an officer was caught on camera laughing about her death, authorities of Washington state's largest city have decided to pay $28 million (about Rs 262 crore) as compensation to her family.

But in a heartbreaking twist, Jaahnavi's father, police constable Kandula Srikanth, passed away on Feb 10, just two days before the settlement became public. Today, the Kandula family faces a painful reality — a settlement in crores, but no daughter who would return with a US degree and no father to witness the long-awaited closure. Seattle city attorney Erica Evans confirmed the settlement, describing Jaahnavi's death as "deeply saddening" and expressing hope the agreement would offer some relief to her family.

**DISTRAUGHT DAD**

> **On night of Jan 23, 2023, Jaahnavi was crossing a road in Seattle** when she was struck by a speeding police patrol vehicle
> **Dad Kandula Srikanth was under immense emotional strain** since her death and went on long leave
> **Recently posted as head constable** at Guntakal, he was on way to take charge when he suffered a heart attack

▶ Grief remains, P 13

## Doubts linger over city double murder motive

Investigation into the double murder of former merchant navy captain Naveen Chandra Bhat and his wife dentist Shyamala Chandra Bhat at their Vignan Nagar villa in Bengaluru has taken a new turn, with police suspecting the couple's son and prime suspect Rohan Bhat was grappling with serious psychiatric issues, **reports Rajiv Kalkod.** Arrested on Wednesday, 33-year-old US-returned software engineer Rohan was sent to Nimhans after preliminary assessment suggested possible schizophrenia. Police said Rohan made contradictory statements about the murder motive, ranging from a demand for Rs 4 lakh from his parents to a dispute over a mobile plan. Rohan claimed he felt giddy and remembered nothing. P 5

# *Pocso accused gets bail, marries GF who's now 18*

**Sanjib Chakraborty** | TNN

**Kolkata:** A 24-year-old youth, behind bars for the past 16 months in a Pocso case for engaging in a physical relationship with a minor, married the girl — now an adult — on the Bongaon sub-divisional court premises, and with the court's blessings, on Wednesday. The man married his 18-year-old girlfriend after the court granted him bail and permitted the marriage.

The man had been in a relationship with the girl since she was 16 and he 22. "During the course of their relationship, on Oct 7, 2024, the girl's family lodged a complaint accusing him of sexually assaulting the minor. Police filed a case under Pocso Act and arrested the accused," an officer of Bongaon police said.

When the case came up for hearing on Wednesday, the girl had already turned 18 and her family, too, appeared to have had a change of heart and accepted the relationship. Both parties told the judge they wanted the couple to get married and start a life together. Additional district and sessions judge Kallol Kumar Das accepted their plea and granted request. The man was given bail on a personal bond of Rs 10,000.

## CM to present his 17th budget on March 6

**Bengaluru:** Chief minister **Siddaramaiah,** who holds the finance portfolio, will present the state budget — his 17th, a record — on March 6. The CM has already started pre-budget consultation exercises for the March 6-23 budget session.

Siddaramaiah had pegged the 2025-26 budget outlay at Rs 4.1 lakh crore. He is expected to increase the size of the budget by 10% for financial year 2026-27, while striking a balance between fiscal prudence and growth. TNN

# SC exploring if India could have professional bondsmen

## Rules Drafted To Stop Foreigners On Bail In NDPS Cases From Disappearing

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The draft has been uploaded on the Supreme Court website and suggestions have been invited from the public and domain experts

**New Delhi:** Worried about foreigners accused in NDPS cases securing release under the 'bail not jail' principle only to disappear, Supreme Court is exploring the creation of licensed professional bail bondsmen, who would stand surety for non-citizens and ensure their availability during trial.

Dealing with an NDPS case where a foreign national, Chidiebere Kingsley Nawchara, secured bail and then went on the run, a bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and A G Masih asked amicus curiae and senior advocate Sidharth Luthra to suggest a mechanism through which the availability of a non-citizen to face trial would be ensured even if s/he secures bail because of long incarceration.

Luthra and his associate advocates, Sheeza Hashmi and Mihir Joshi, prepared a draft 'Professional Bail Bondsmen (Regulation) Rules' based on suggestions by department of revenue intelligence (DRI) and submitted it to the court. It has been uploaded on the SC website and suggestions have been invited from the public and domain experts.

"These guidelines are only applicable for the grant of bail by the trial court/appellate court to foreign nationals and non-citizens who are being prosecuted for offences under NDPS in relation to commercial quantity," the amicus curiae said.

Under the proposed rules, individuals or business entities could get licences to become professional bail bondsmen. "A bail bondsman business entity shall not execute any bail bond except through a duly licensed individual bail bondsman," it said.

These rules disqualify police officers, prison officers, judicial officers, prosecutors, court staff; persons exercising control over prisoners, advocates and their employees, and persons with previous convictions from becoming bail bondsmen.

The rules cast an obligation on bail bondsmen to ensure appearance of the accused before the trial court, comply with bail conditions, and promptly inform the court and the investigating agency of any apprehended breach of these conditions.

The rules propose that the court granting bail to a foreign national in a drug case impose conditions of deposit of passport, territorial travel restrictions and periodic reporting. To keep track of the foreigners released on bail in NDPS cases, the amicus said, "The court or authority may direct coordination with the Bureau of Immigration, FRRO, ministry of home affairs or ministry of external affairs."

## Tobacco tycoon son gets bail in Lamborghini accident case

**Kanpur:** Shivam Mishra, the son of a tobacco baron, was arrested on Thursday for the Lamborghini crash in Kanpur that left six people injured, and released on a personal bail bond of Rs 30,000 a few hours later, report **Anant Shekher Misra & Faiz Siddiqui**.

The court of additional chief judicial magistrate (VII), Kanpur Nagar, Amit Singh, noted that police did not obtain prior approval for Shivam's arrest, as required under Section 35(6) of CrPC, and denied their request for 14-day judicial custody citing procedural lapses.

During the proceedings, the ACJM asked whether the arrest followed the formalities required. The prosecution admitted that it did not, and said the arrest was based on a tip-off that the accused might flee. The court held that this was a breach of legal requirements.

Shivam was produced before the court following his arrest in the morning, while his lawyer immediately filed a bail application. As a number lawyers had abstained from judicial work in response to a call by two advocate associations, the defence withdrew the bail application. The ACJM said he was only addressing the remand application.

Rejecting the police application, the court released Shivam on furnishing the bond, with the condition that he cooperate with the investigation and not attempt to influence witnesses.

## Snakebite, not dowry killing, says court, acquits accused

**Meerut:** A court in Bulandshahr acquitted a 32-year-old man and his parents, all of whom were charged with killing his 24-year-old wife over dowry, saying evidence had proved that the victim had died of a snakebite and there was no foul play, reports **Rahul Singh**.

The court on Thursday also directed state govt to pay Rs 1 lakh each to the trio, who had spent three years in jail.

The court of additional district and session judge Shahzad Ali then ordered the UP director general of police to take action against the investigating officer, DSP Gopal Singh, for overlooking evidence.

Mamta Devi, who married Sumit Kumar in May 2015, was found unconscious at home about 15 days after giving birth in May 2018 and was declared dead in hospital. Following allegations of dowry harassment by her family, Sumit, father Devendra and mother Roopvati were charged under sections of IPC and Dowry Prohibition Act.

However, during the trial, medical and forensic evidence indicated Mamta's death was caused by snake venom. The court noted that no prior complaint of dowry harassment was lodged by her family. It also recorded that it was the in-laws who immediately took her to a doctor, who confirmed it was a case of snakebite. The tehsildar's report, too, mentioned snakebite as the cause of death.

## Godfrey Phillips exec dir accuses mom of assault; summonses issued

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The court observed there was sufficient 'prima facie material' to proceed against Samir Modi's mother Bina Modi and senior advocate Lalit Bhasin

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court has issued summonses to industrialist Bina Modi and senior advocate Lalit Bhasin in an assault case filed by her son and Godfrey Phillips India (GPI) executive director Samir Modi, observing that there is sufficient "prima facie material" to proceed against them.

Samir had lodged a complaint at Delhi's Sarita Vihar police station in 2024, alleging that Bina's personal security officer, Surendra Prasad, physically assaulted him and prevented him from entering a board meeting at GPI's Jasola office on May 30.

According to the prosecution, the attack resulted in a fractured right index finger. It was submitted that the injury was so grave that the finger was "broken into two parts and required a screw and wire to be put together".

In 2025, Delhi Police filed a charge sheet naming Prasad under CrPC sections 323 and 341, but submitted there was "insufficient material" to proceed against Bina and Bhasin. Samir subsequently filed a protest petition seeking cognisance against them as well. He alleged that Prasad stopped him from entering the boardroom on Bina's instructions and assaulted him when he insisted on attending.

Bina and Bhasin later insisted on proceeding with the meeting despite his injury, Samir further alleged.

Judicial magistrate Aneeca Bishnoi observed that although the evidence against Bina and Bhasin was circumstantial, there was sufficient material indicating their prima facie involvement. The court held that the investigating officer could not "reassess" them "based on the sole statement" of Prasad.

The medico-legal certificate and CCTV footage showed that an altercation took place, the court said, and summoned all three on May 7. A detailed evaluation of evidence isn't required at this stage, the court noted, adding that the "material forms a prima facie chain suggesting a meeting of minds among the accused".

Commenting on Prasad's conduct, Bishnoi said even if the complainant was barred to the meeting, "causing grievous injury would be unlawful". The court also took note of Prasad's changing statements regarding whether he stopped Samir from attending the meeting. While it was claimed that others were also not allowed in, the court pointed out that the submitted footage showed only Samir being turned.

## When are you planning to return, HC asks Mallya

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Bombay HC on Thursday, by way of a "last chance", asked the founder of the defunct Kingfisher Airlines, **Vijay Mallya**, to inform the court when he intended to return to India.

Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Gautam Ankhad said Mallya could not avoid court processes by taking advantage of the pendency of his petition, in which he had challenged the constitutionality of provisions of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act.

The bench reiterated what it had said at earlier hearings: that Mallya ought to return to India, or could even file an affidavit to state, "I won't come back", to enable the high court to pass orders appropriately. No such affidavit had yet been filed, the HC noted.

Mallya also separately challenged a 2019 order given by a special trial court on his 'Fugitive Economic Offender' tag.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the central agencies, said Mallya couldn't invoke the HC's inherent jurisdiction. He added that the extradition proceedings in the UK against him were drawing to a close, and the proceedings were not merely for recovery of money.

To agency from the high court, Mallya's counsel said he had availed no interim protection from Indian courts as yet.

The CJ said, "You have to come back."

## Caste doesn't change after conversion: HC

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

**Prayagraj:** Caste assigned at birth remains unchangeable even if a person converts to another religion or marries into another community, Allahabad high court has ruled while dismissing an appeal against a special judge's order to nine people to stand trial for alleged offences under the SC/ST Act.

The case involves a woman who had filed a criminal complaint against the appellants in the Aligarh SC/ST court, alleging they assaulted and hurled casteist slurs at her during a dispute.

Justice Anil Kumar-X rejected the contention that the woman, whose roots are in Bengal, had "lost her caste" after her inter-caste marriage to a Jat.

## Change name or we won't allow 'Ghooskhor Pandat' release: SC

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**New Delhi:** Observing that the fundamental right to speech and expression did not give anyone the licence to denigrate a citizen or a community, Supreme Court on Thursday disapproved of the title of the film 'Ghooskhor Pandat' and made it clear to the producers that it would not allow its release if the name was not changed.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan issued notice on a PIL against the release of the film. SC said unrest and fissures already existed in society and the release would create further problems.

"Why should you denigrate anybody? It's against morality and public order... We thought filmmakers, journalists, etc, are all responsible people and are aware of exceptions and reasonable restrictions (on fundamental right of speech and expression). No section of society should be denigrated. If you use your freedom to denigrate any section of society we can't permit it," the bench said.

**No community can be denigrated, SC said, and, to highlight fraternity was under strain, referred to an incident in which a Muslim shopkeeper was told to remove the word 'Baba' from his sign**

As a lawyer appearing for the producers informed the court that they were agreeable to changing the name, the bench asked them to file a response and inform it about the new title on the next date of hearing, Feb 19.

SC said creative people should refrain from disturbing fraternity in society by targeting a particular section. To underscore fraternity was under strain, it referred to an incident in Uttarakhand in which a Muslim shopkeeper was being forced to remove the word "Baba" from the sign board.

Earlier, a writ petition was filed in Delhi HC opposing the film starring Manoj Bajpayee and directed by Neeraj Pandey. The HC disposed of it after the producers assured the court that the name would be changed.

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